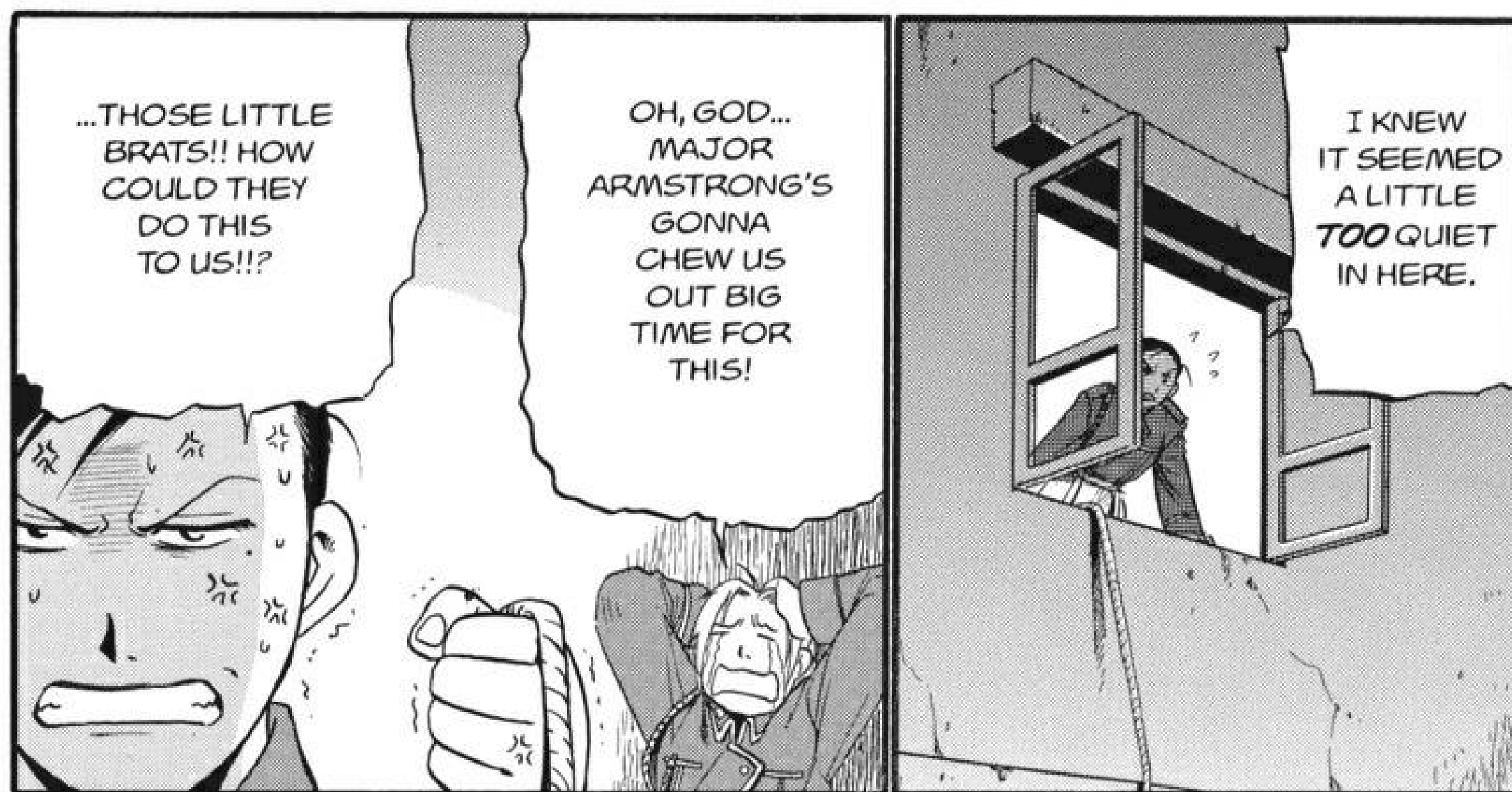
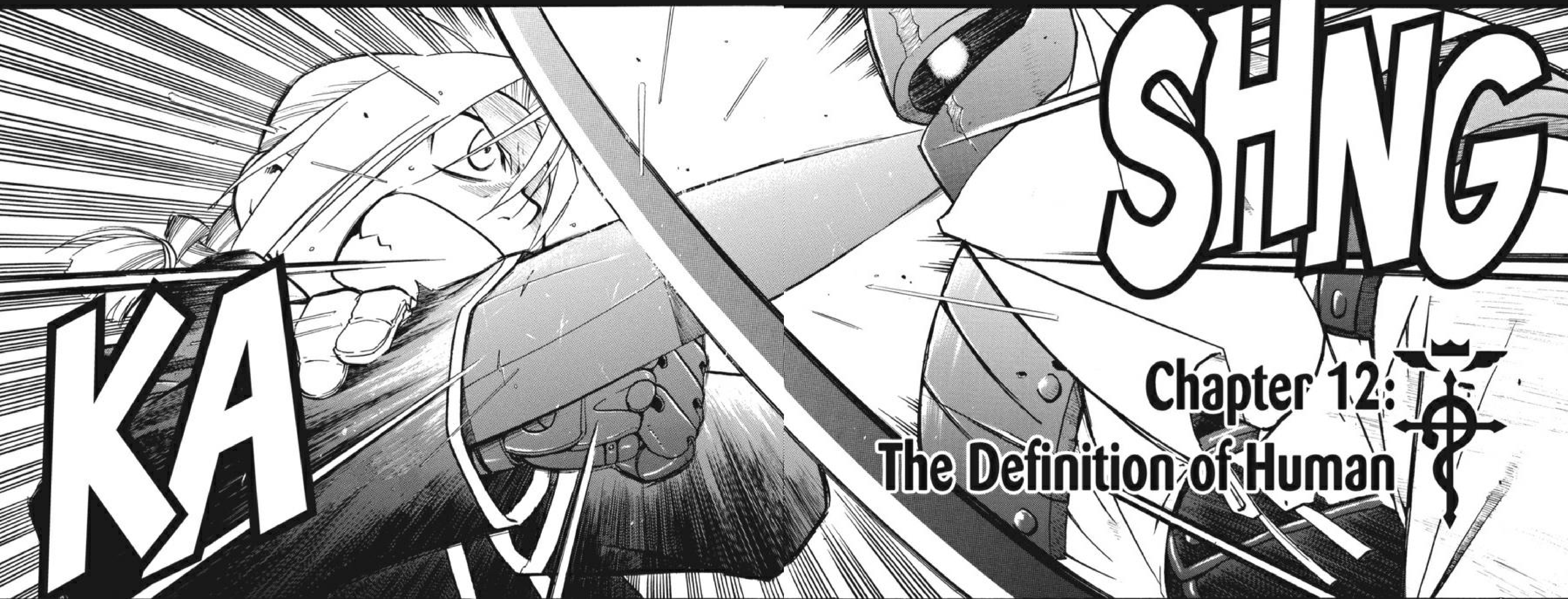






THE
OLD
LAB
NO.5
!



Chapter 12:
The Definition of Human

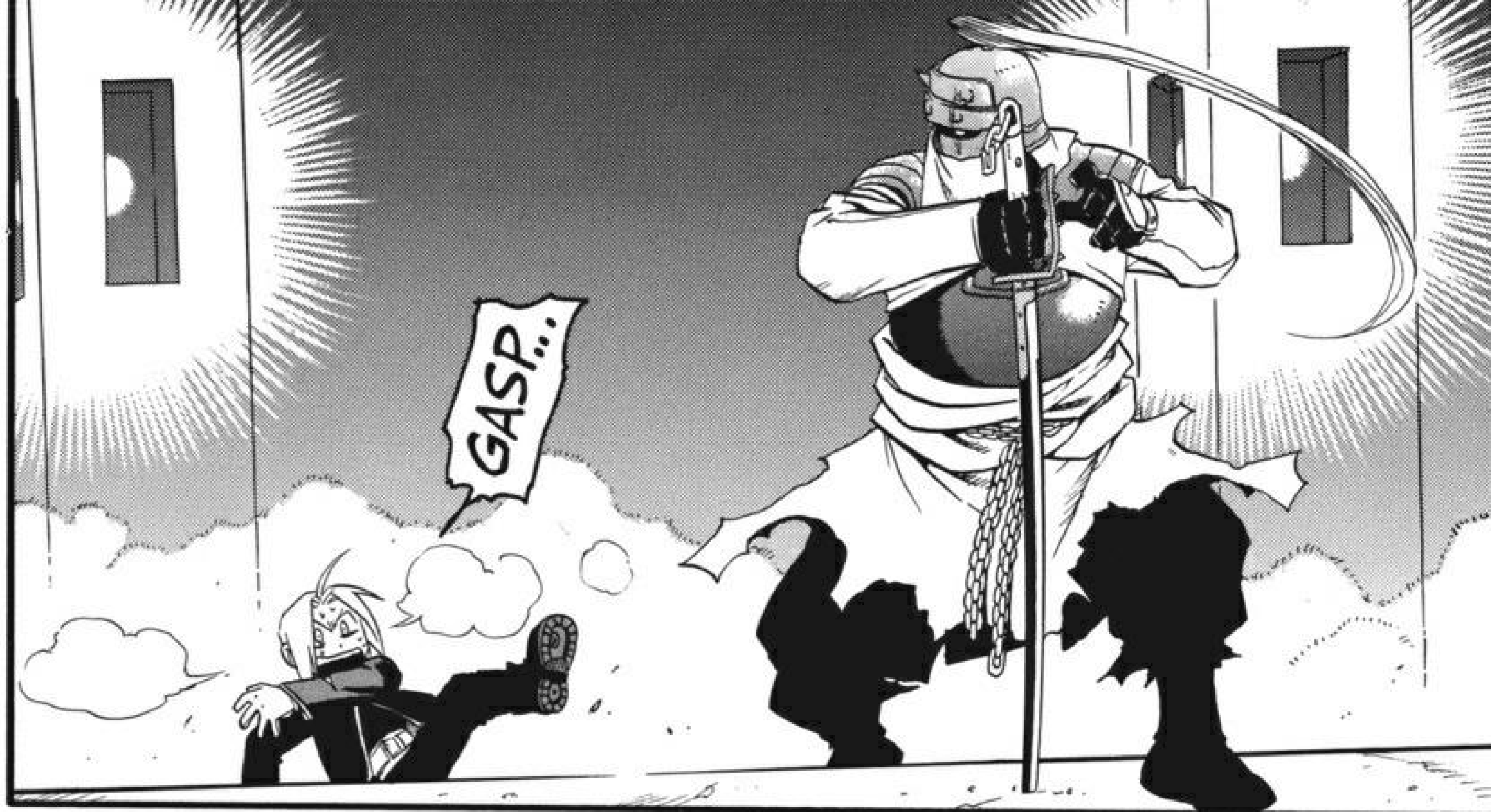


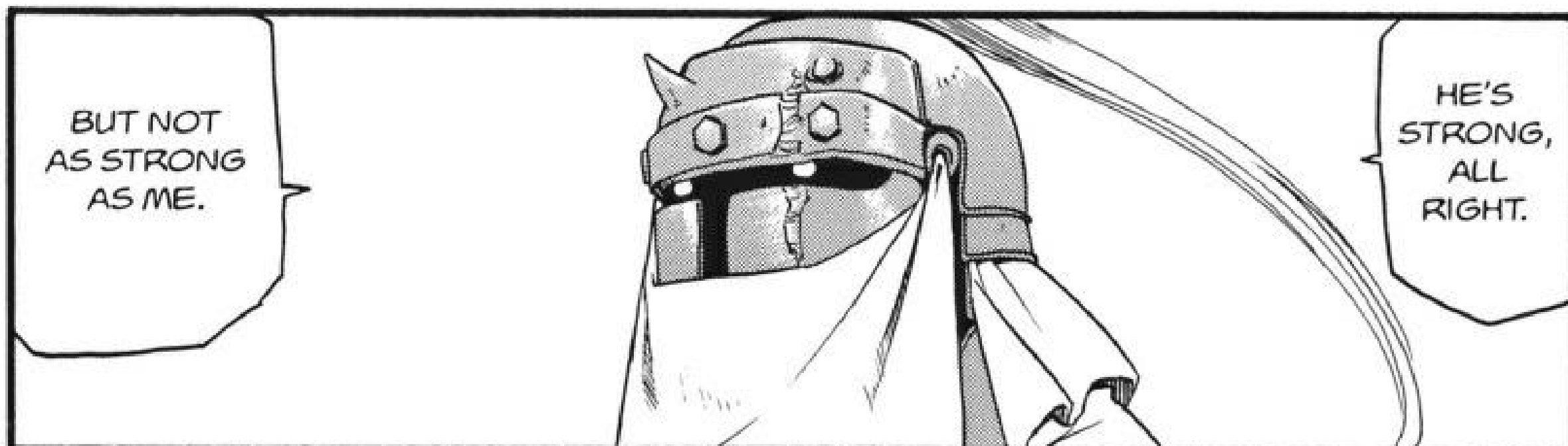


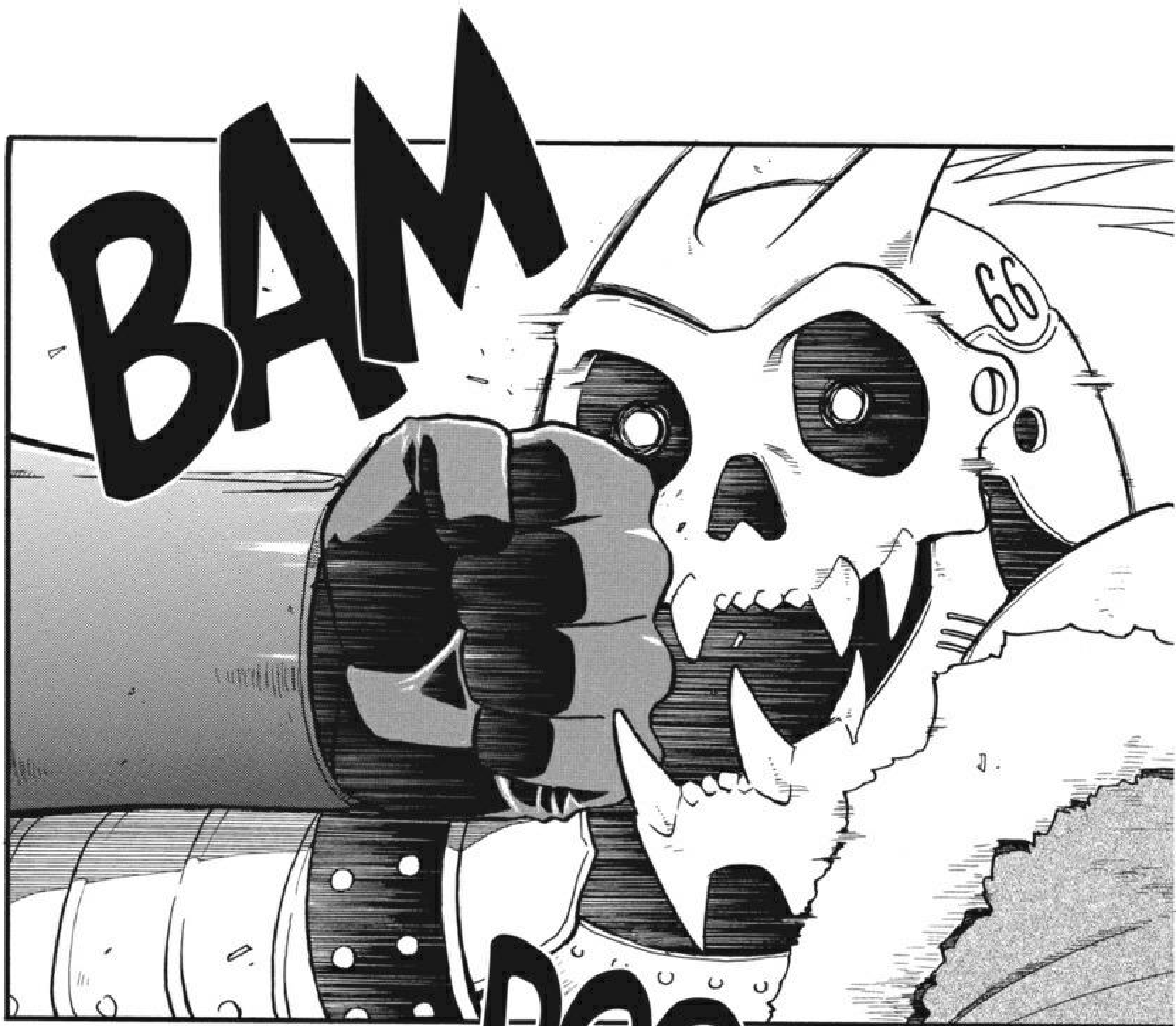














WHAK

...JUST
SIT
STILL...

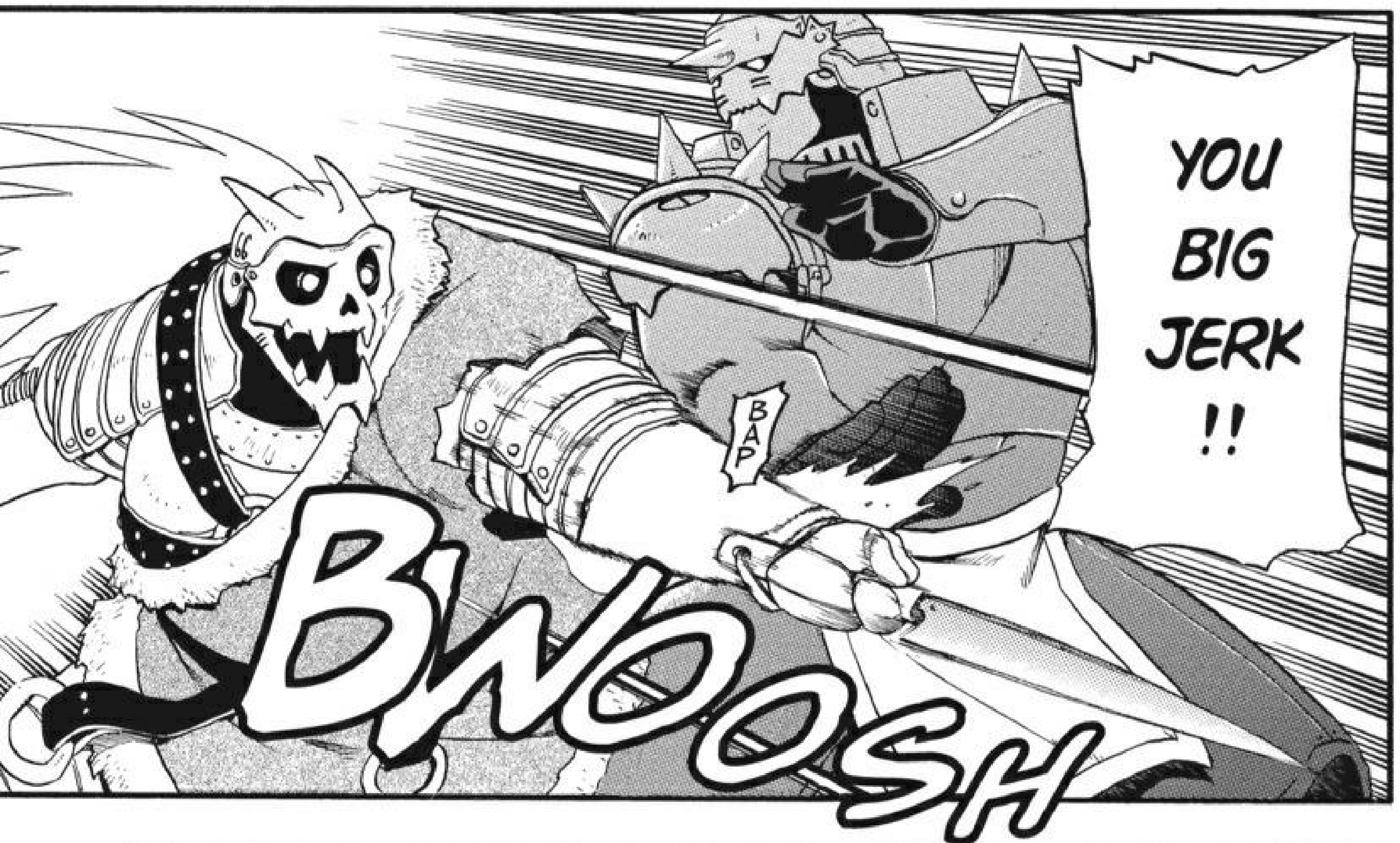
...AND
LET
ME...

...CUT
YOU
UP
?!

WHAK



WHY
WON'T
YOU...



YOU
BIG
JERK
!!

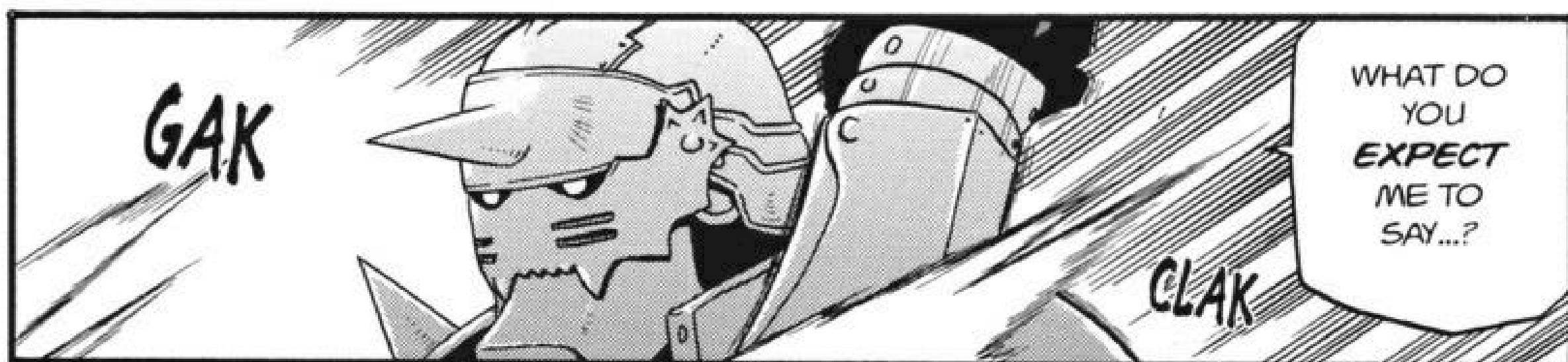
BWOOSH

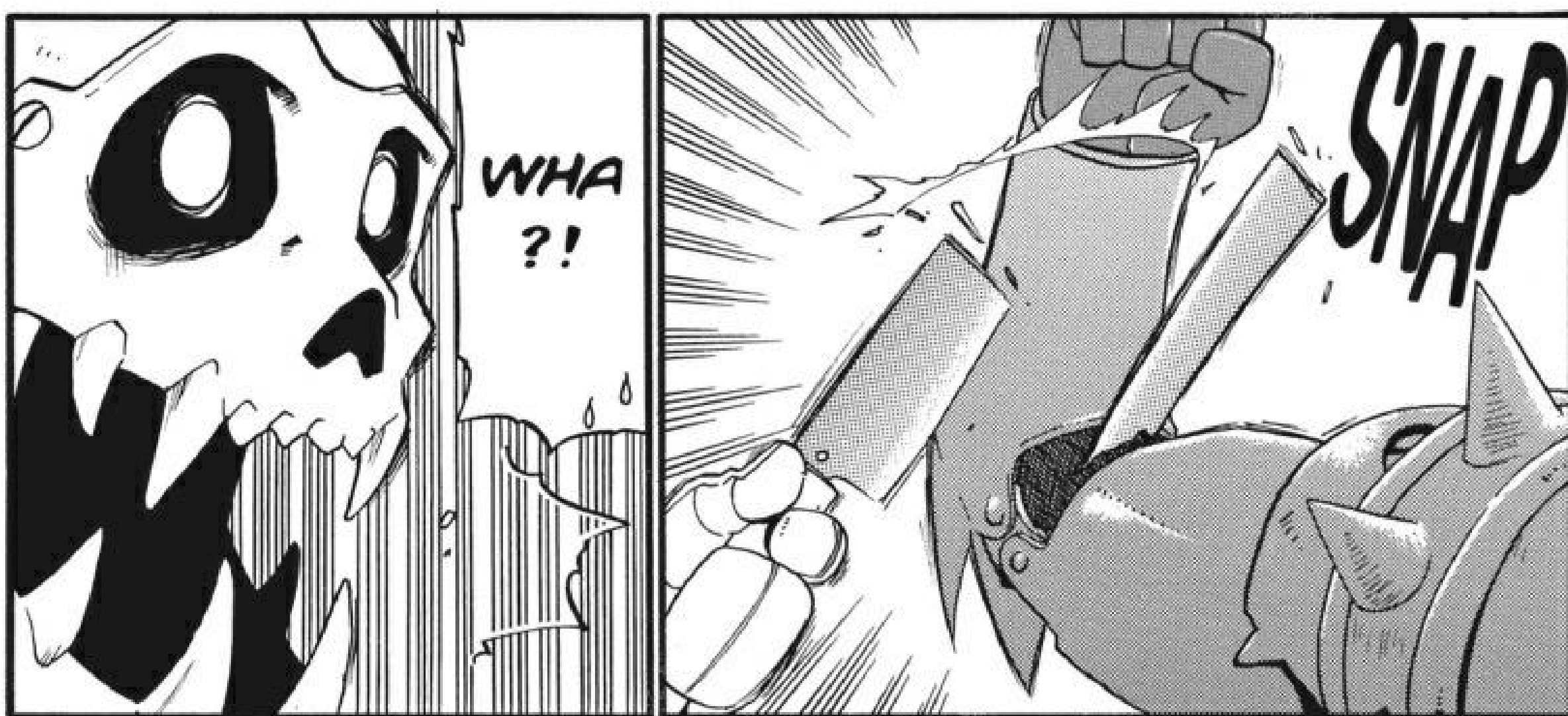
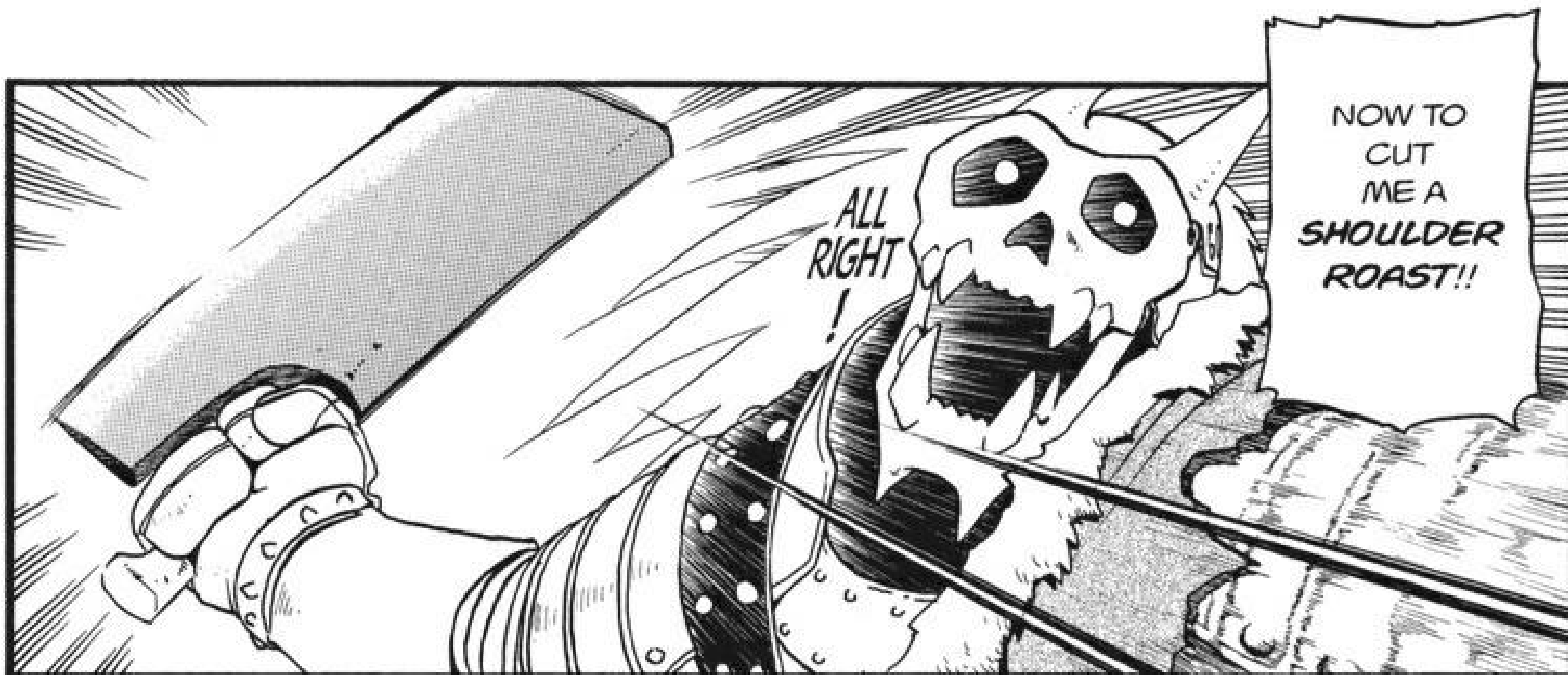


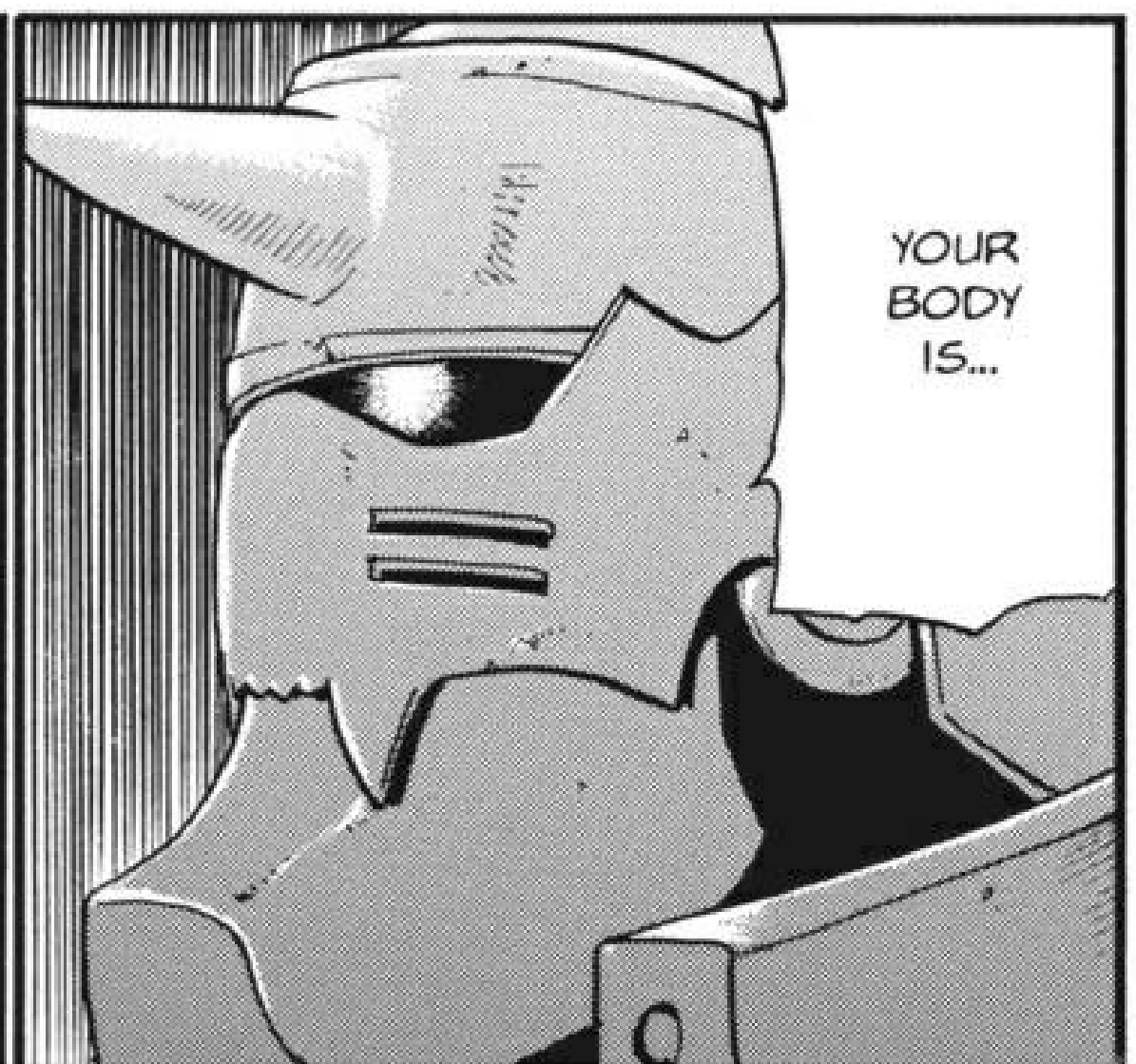
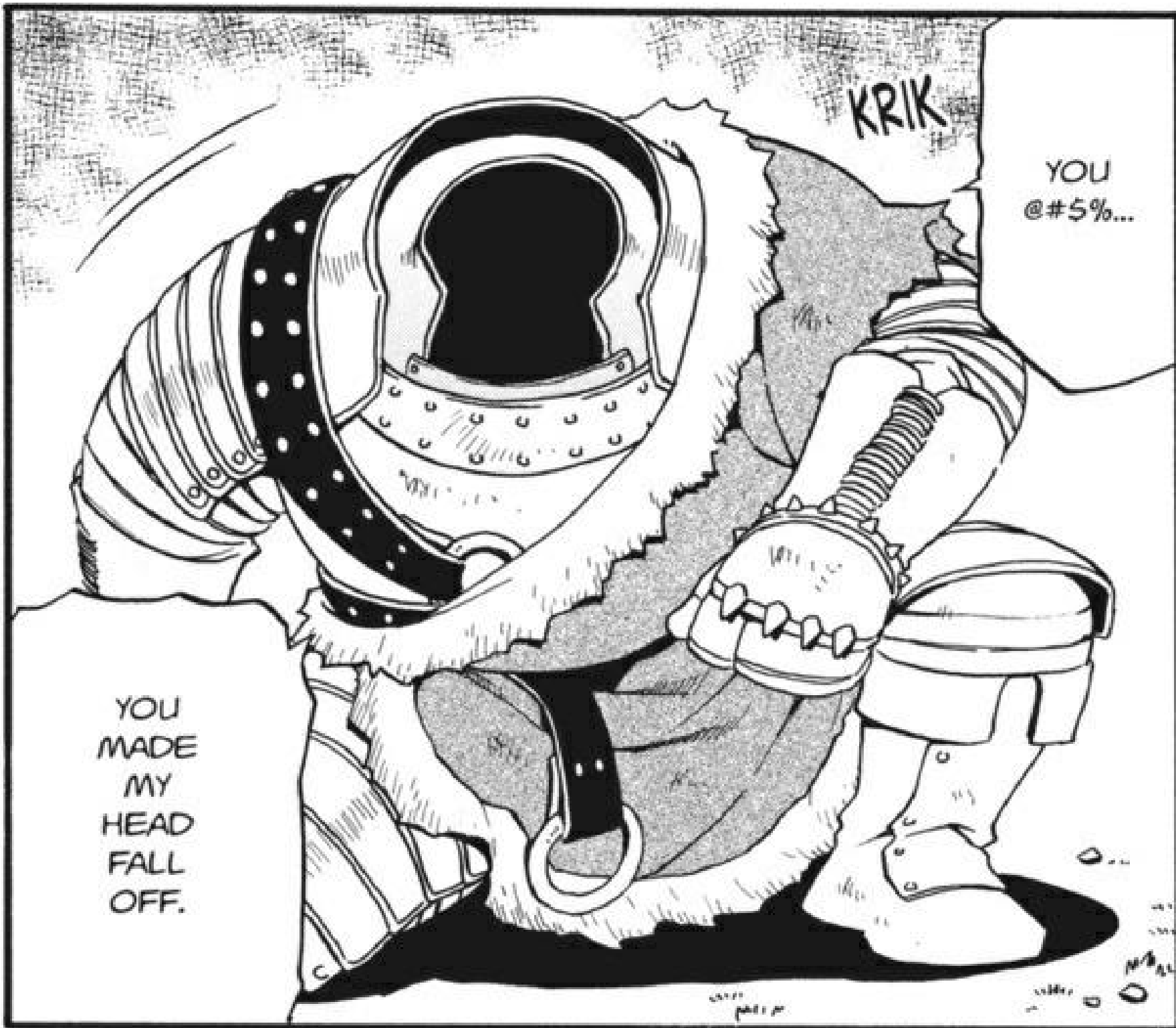
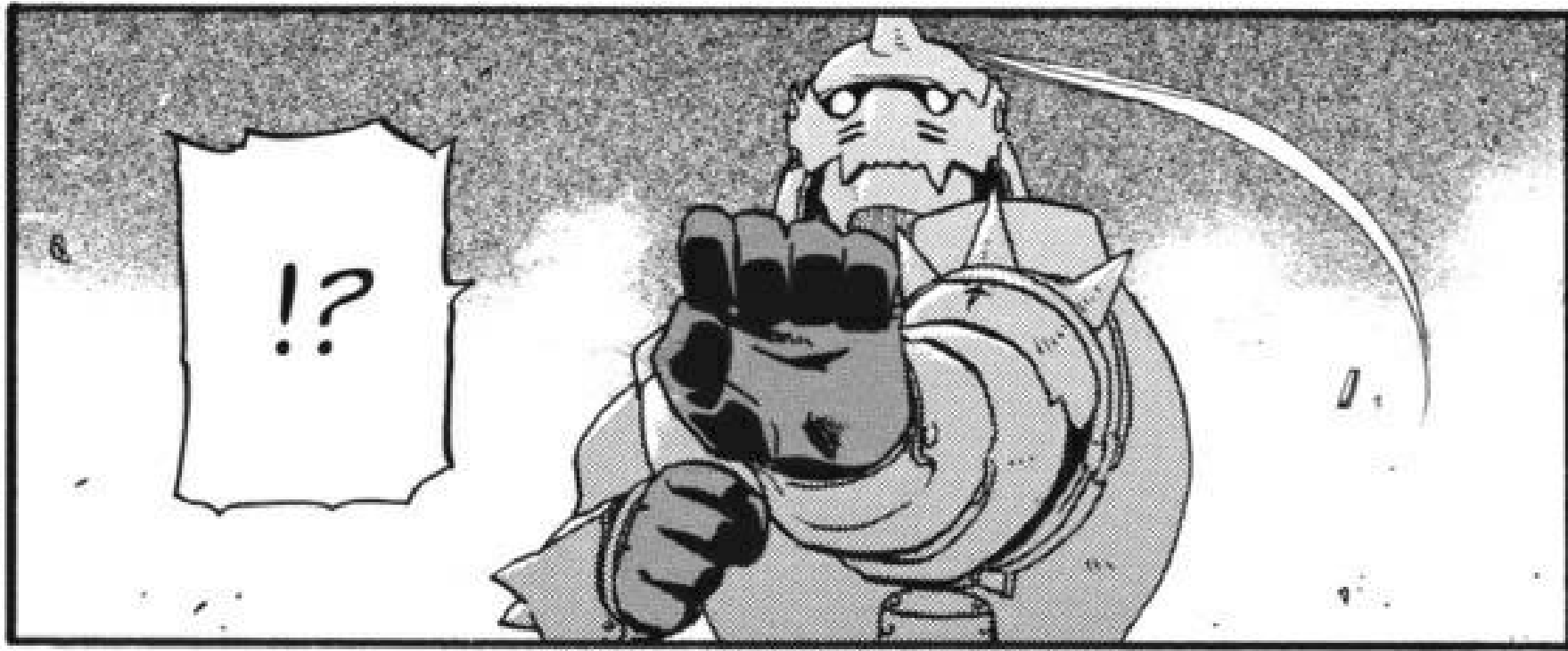
CLAK

SHK
KRK

IT
WON'T
HURT
THAT
BAD
!!





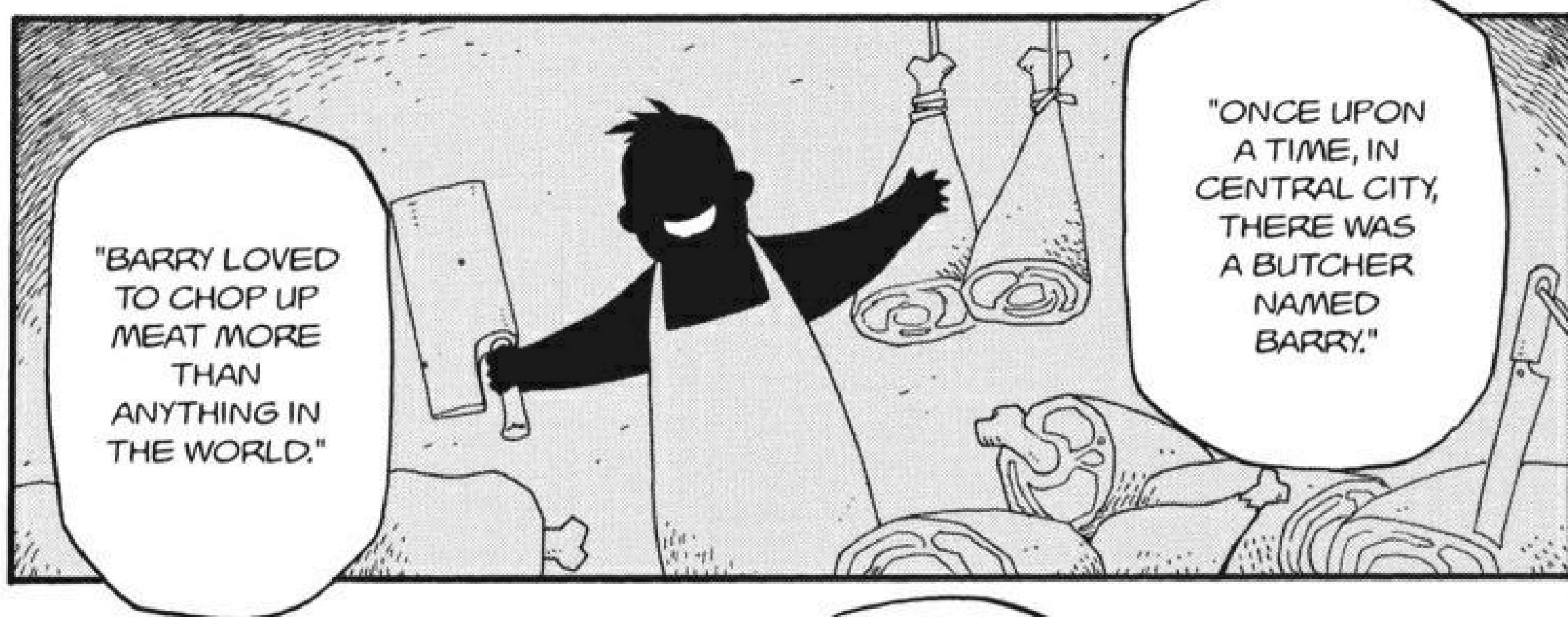




IT'S A STORY
ABOUT A
BUTCHER
NAMED
BARRY.

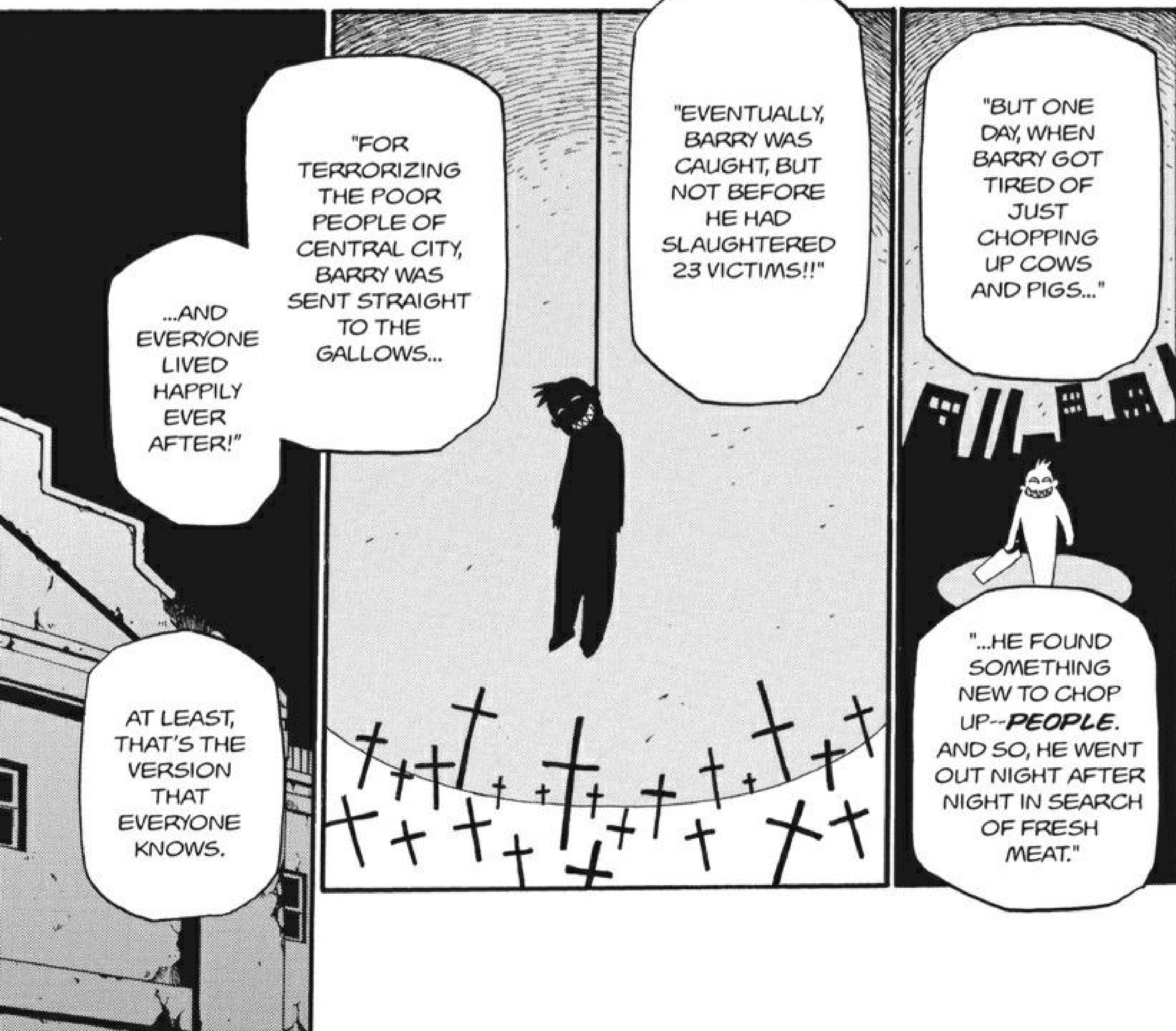
YOU MAY
HAVE
HEARD IT
BEFORE.

LET ME
TELL YOU
A LITTLE
STORY.



"BARRY LOVED
TO CHOP UP
MEAT MORE
THAN
ANYTHING IN
THE WORLD."

"ONCE UPON
A TIME, IN
CENTRAL CITY,
THERE WAS
A BUTCHER
NAMED
BARRY."



...AND
EVERYONE
LIVED
HAPPILY
EVER
AFTER!"

"FOR
TERRORIZING
THE POOR
PEOPLE OF
CENTRAL CITY,
BARRY WAS
SENT STRAIGHT
TO THE
GALLOWS..."

"EVENTUALLY,
BARRY WAS
CAUGHT, BUT
NOT BEFORE
HE HAD
SLAUGHTERED
23 VICTIMS!!"

"BUT ONE
DAY, WHEN
BARRY GOT
TIRED OF
JUST
CHOPPING
UP COWS
AND PIGS..."

AT LEAST,
THAT'S THE
VERSION
THAT
EVERYONE
KNOWS.

"...HE FOUND
SOMETHING
NEW TO CHOP
UP--**PEOPLE.**
AND SO, HE WENT
OUT NIGHT AFTER
NIGHT IN SEARCH
OF FRESH
MEAT."

THAT'S
RIGHT! HE'S
STANDING
IN FRONT OF
YOU RIGHT
NOW!

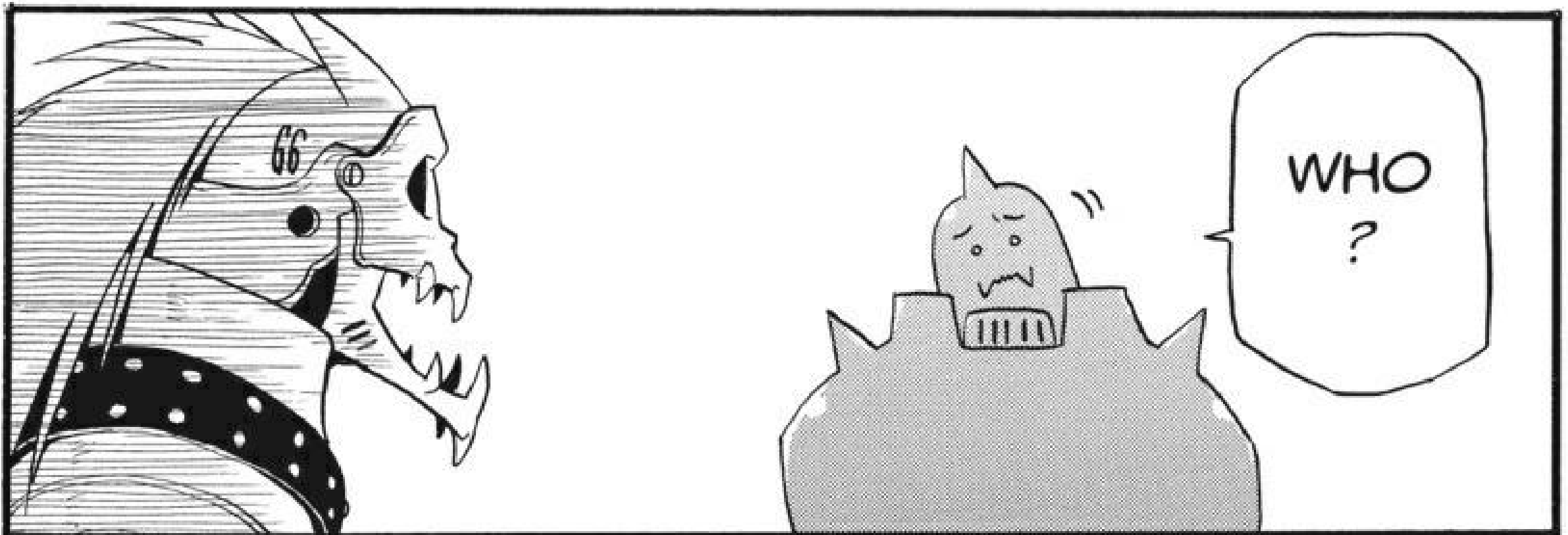
I'M
BARRY
THE
CHOPPER
!!!

Y'SEE,
BARRY
DIDN'T
ACTUALLY
WIND UP
ON THE
GALLOWS
LIKE HE
WAS
SUPPOSED
TO.

BUT
THERE'S
ACTUALLY
MORE
TO THIS
STORY.

SOME
PEOPLE
SPARED HIS
LIFE ON THE
CONDITION
THAT HE
GUARD A
CERTAIN
LOCATION.

BUT FIRST
THEY TOOK
AWAY HIS
OLD **MEAT**
SACK AND
TRAPPED HIS
SOUL INSIDE
A **METAL**
BODY.



OKAY, SO MAYBE YOU HAVEN'T HEARD OF ME, BUT AREN'T YOU A LITTLE SURPRISED BY MY BODY?





WHAT
A
RELIEF!

OH, SO YER
JUST ANOTHER
INMATE FROM
DEATH ROW.
DON'T SCARE
ME LIKE THAT!

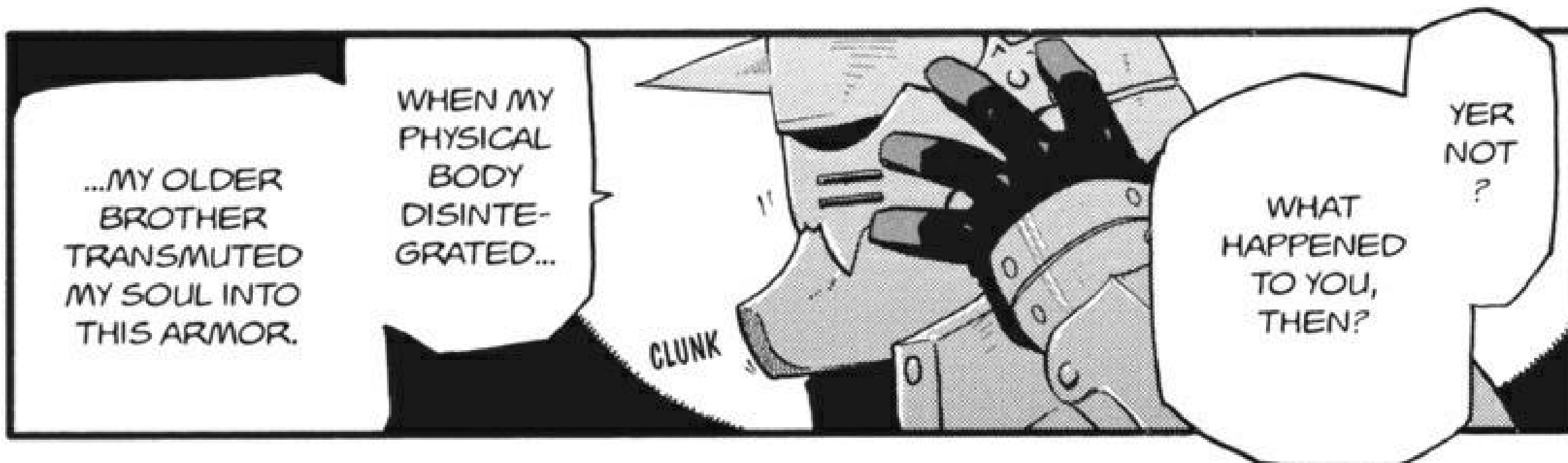
FUME
FUME

I'M
NOT A
CRIMINAL
!!



WAAGHH!
HOW'D
YOU DO
THAT?!
YOU'RE
A
FREAK!

HEY...NOW
YOU'RE
HURTING
MY
FEELINGS...



...MY OLDER
BROTHER
TRANSMUTED
MY SOUL INTO
THIS ARMOR.

WHEN MY
PHYSICAL
BODY
DISINTE-
GRATED...

CLUNK

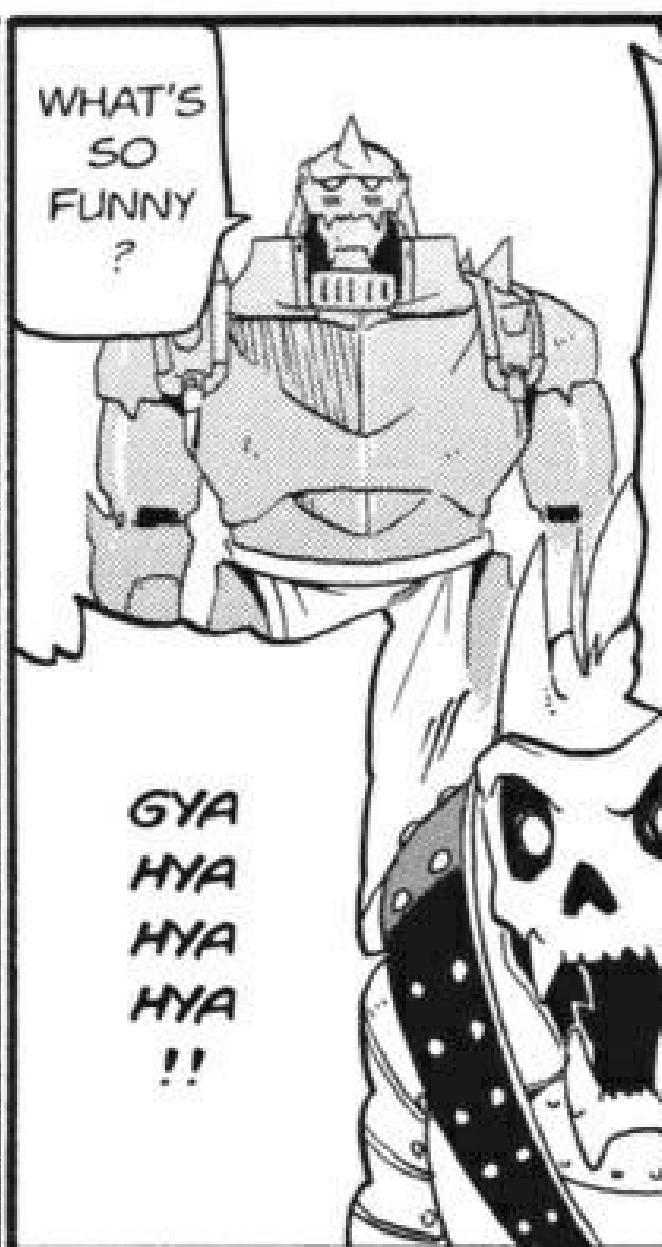
WHAT
HAPPENED
TO YOU,
THEN?

YER
NOT
?



SORRY,
SORRY.
IT'S
NOTHING.

BY THE
WAY...
DO YOU
TRUST
YOUR BIG
BROTHER
?



WHAT'S
SO
FUNNY
?

GYA
HYA
HYA
HYA
!!



A
BROTHER?!
GEH
HEH HEH!
A
BROTHER,
HUH?!





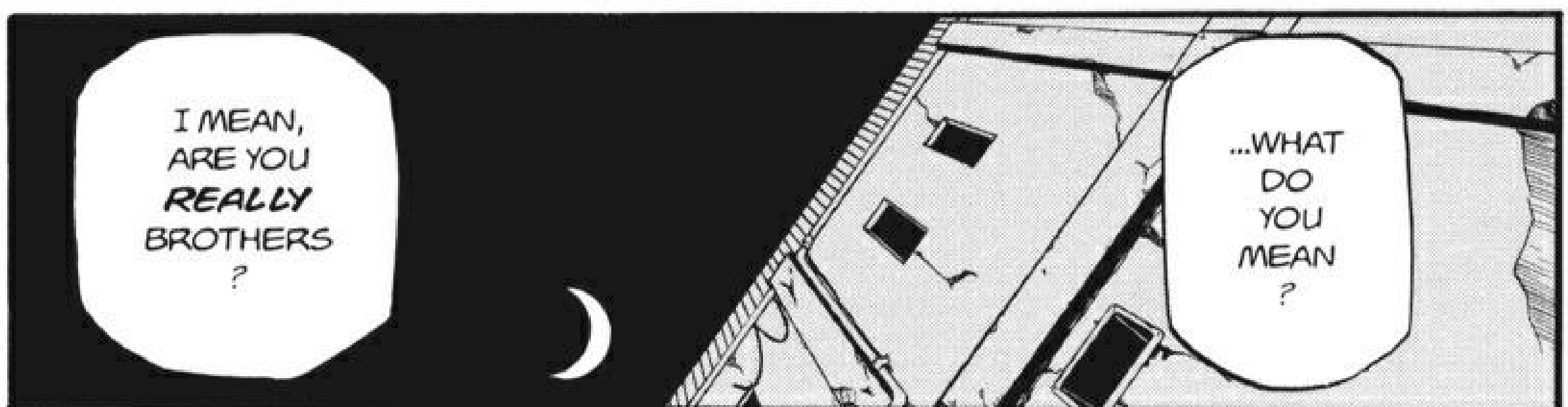
MY, MY...
AIN'T
BROTHERLY
LOVE
BEAUTIFUL
?

**EVEN
IF
THAT
LOVE
AIN'T
REAL
!**



OF
COURSE
I
DO.

HE
RISKED
HIS LIFE
TO
TRANSMUTE
MY
SOUL.



I MEAN,
ARE YOU
REALLY
BROTHERS
?

...WHAT
DO
YOU
MEAN
?

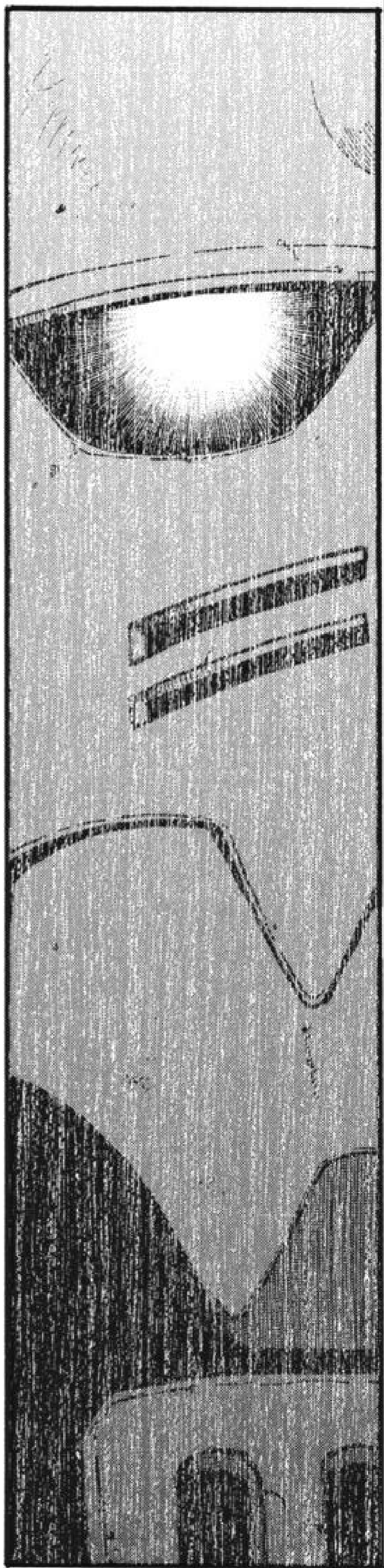


WHAT
IF...

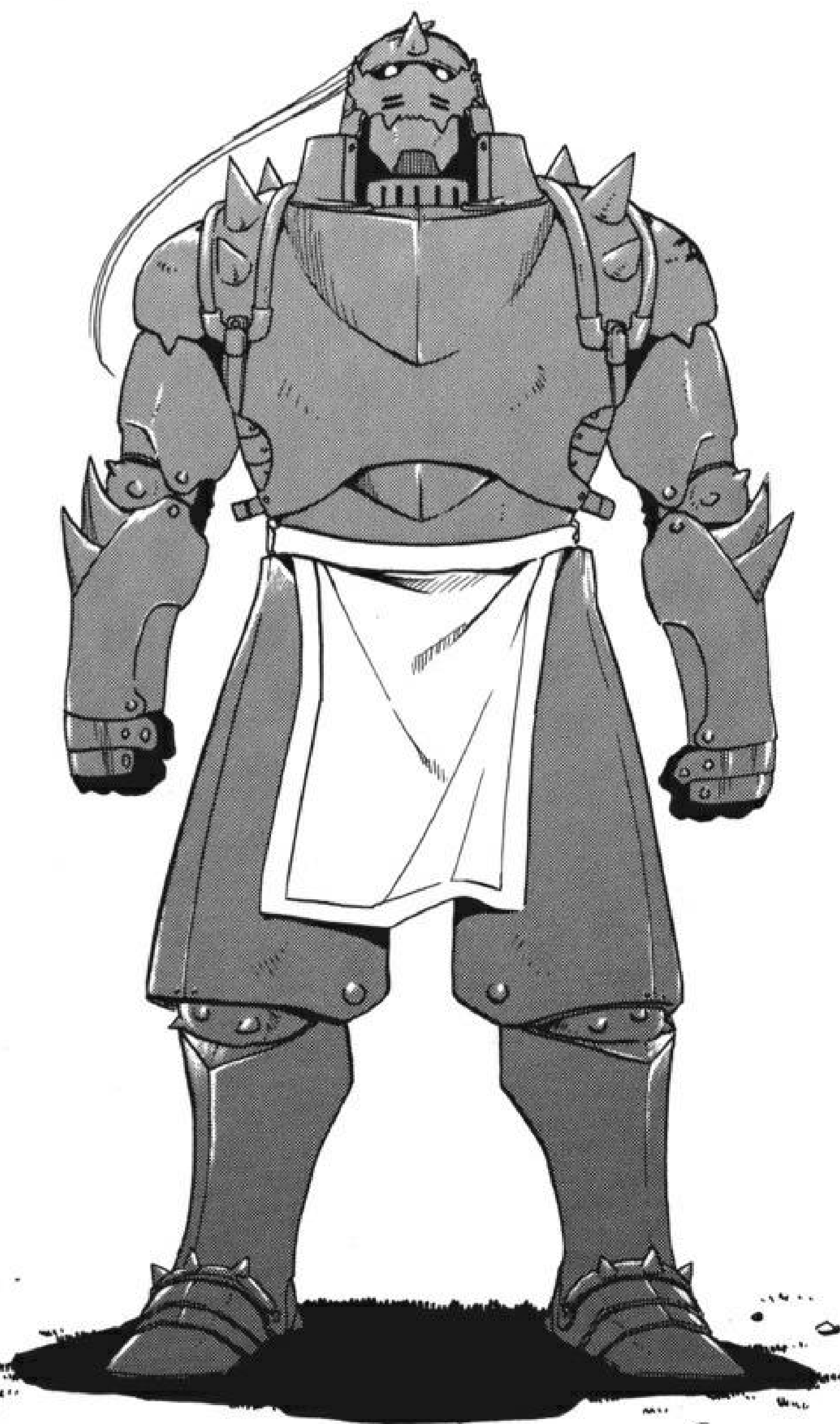
NO NO,
THAT'S NOT
WHAT I
MEAN!

OF COURSE!
PEOPLE SAY
OUR
PERSONALITIES
ARE TOTALLY
DIFFERENT,
AND EVEN
THOUGH I'M
THE YOUNGER
BROTHER,
I'M TALLER
THAN HE
IS, BUT—

hmph



WHAT IF YOUR
PERSONALITY
AND MEMORIES
WERE ALL
FABRICATED
BY YOUR "BIG
BROTHER"?





GEH
HA
HA HA
HA
!!

TH...

THAT'S NOT
POSSIBLE!!
THERE'S NO
DOUBT THAT
I'M A HUMAN
BEING NAMED
ALPHONSE
ELRIC!!

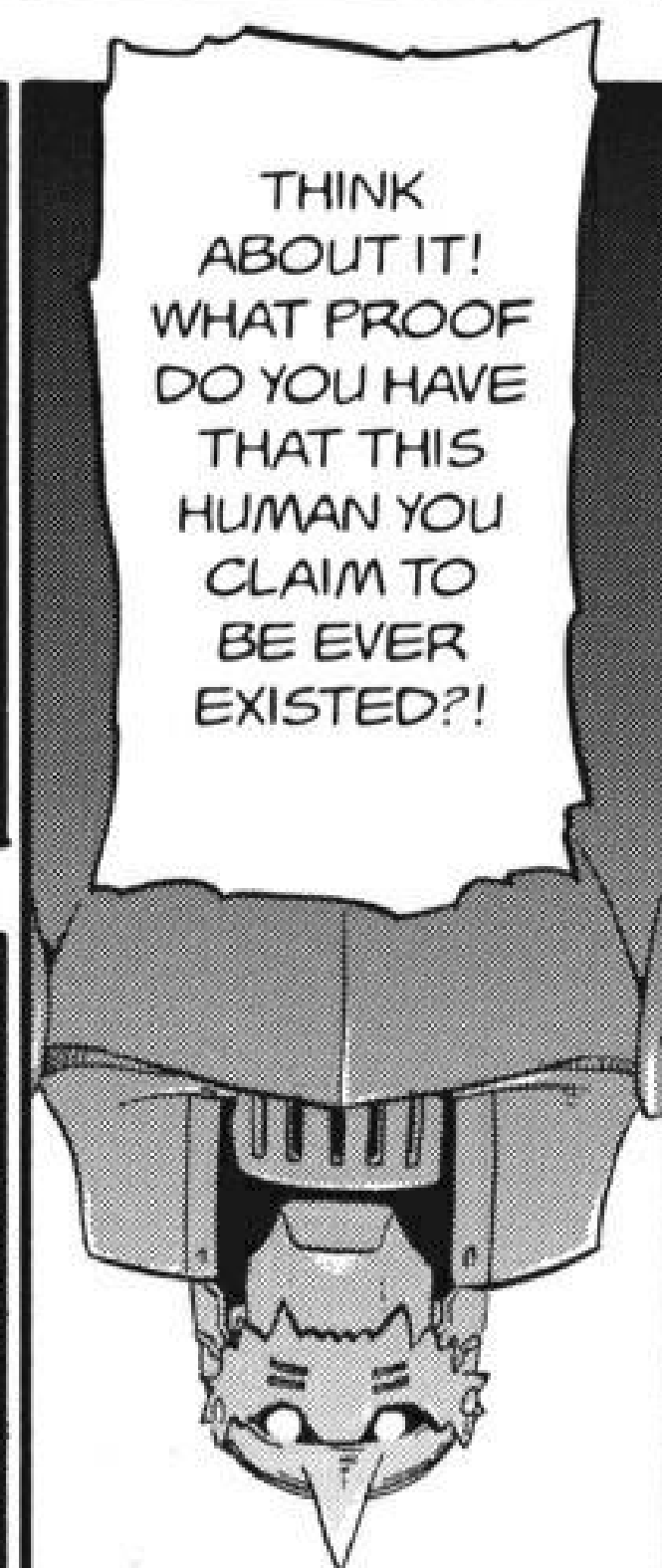


...THEN
WHAT
ABOUT
YOU?!

YOU
THERE,
DON'T
MOVE
!!



THIS
PLACE
IS OFF
LIMITS
!!



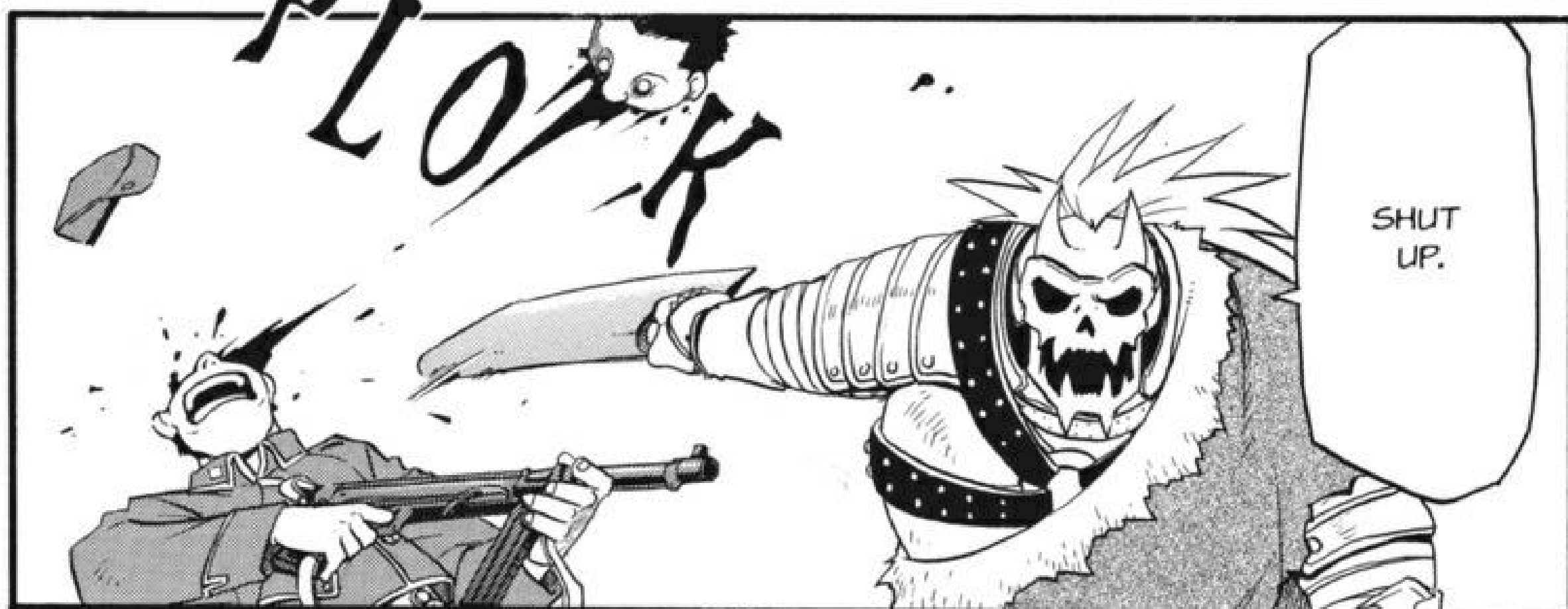
THINK
ABOUT IT!
WHAT PROOF
DO YOU HAVE
THAT THIS
HUMAN YOU
CLAIM TO
BE EVER
EXISTED?!



WHAT THE
HELL IS A
"SOUL," ANYWAY?
HOW CAN
YOU PROVE
IT EXISTS
WHEN YOU
CAN'T EVEN
SEE IT?!

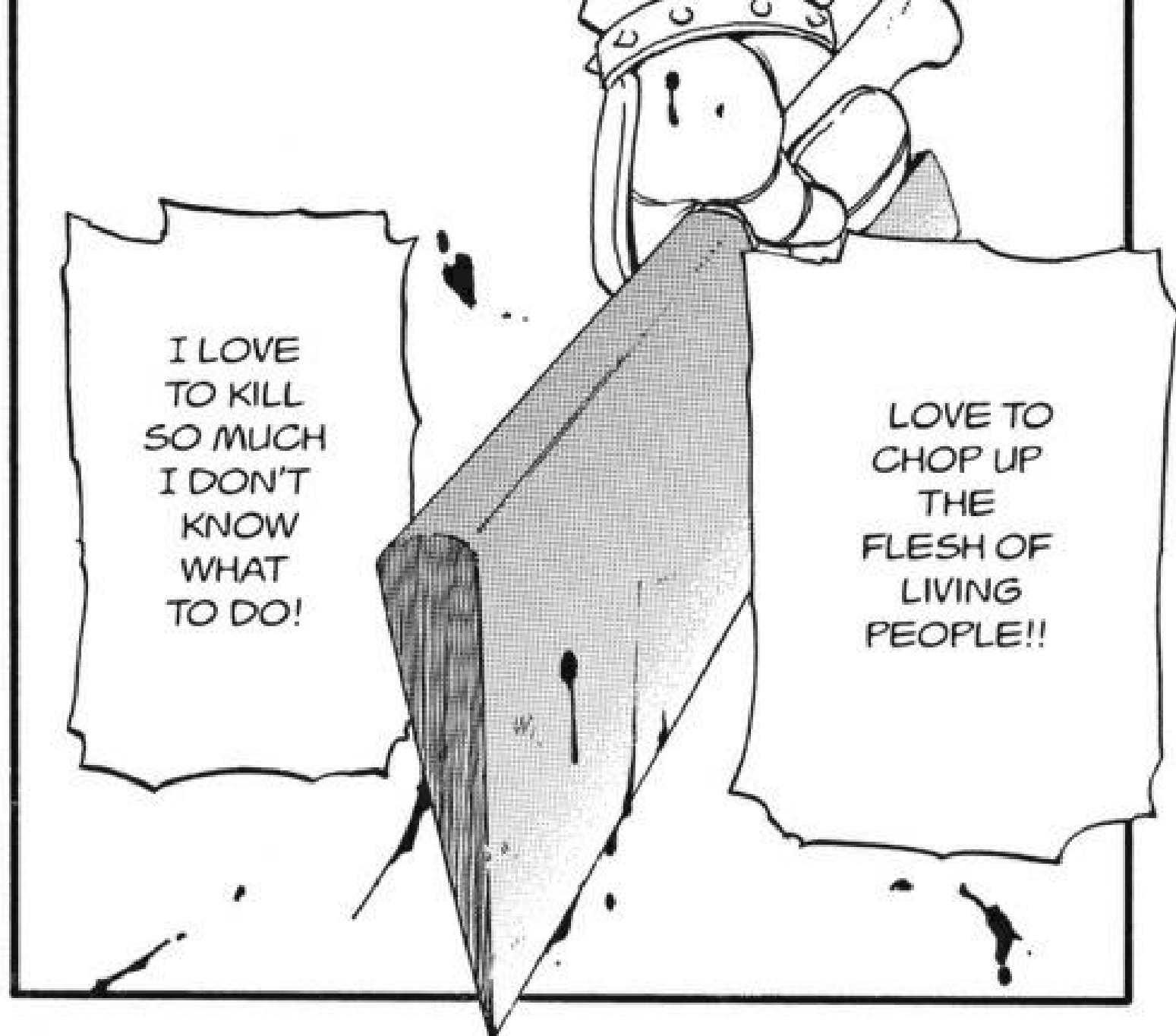
MAYBE
YER BIG
BROTHER
AND THE
PEOPLE
AROUND
YOU ARE
ALL LYING
TO YOU!!

WHERE'S
YOUR
MEAT
?!





EVEN IF
YOUR FRIEND **DID**
DEFEAT MY ALLY
AND IS HEADED
THIS WAY, THIS
BUILDING IS HARD
TO NAVIGATE.



I LOVE
TO KILL
SO MUCH
I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT
TO DO!

LOVE TO
CHOP UP
THE
FLESH OF
LIVING
PEOPLE!!

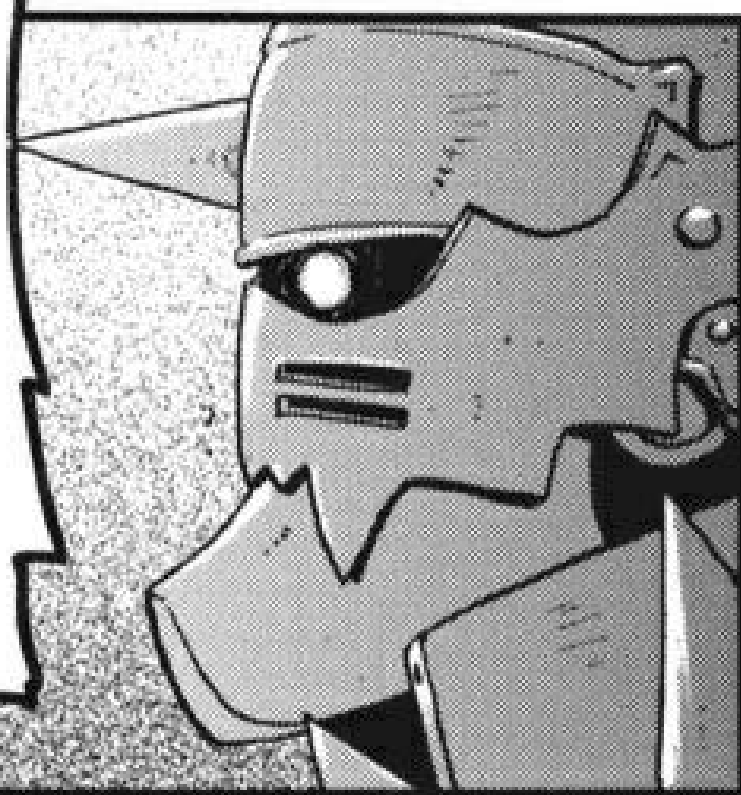


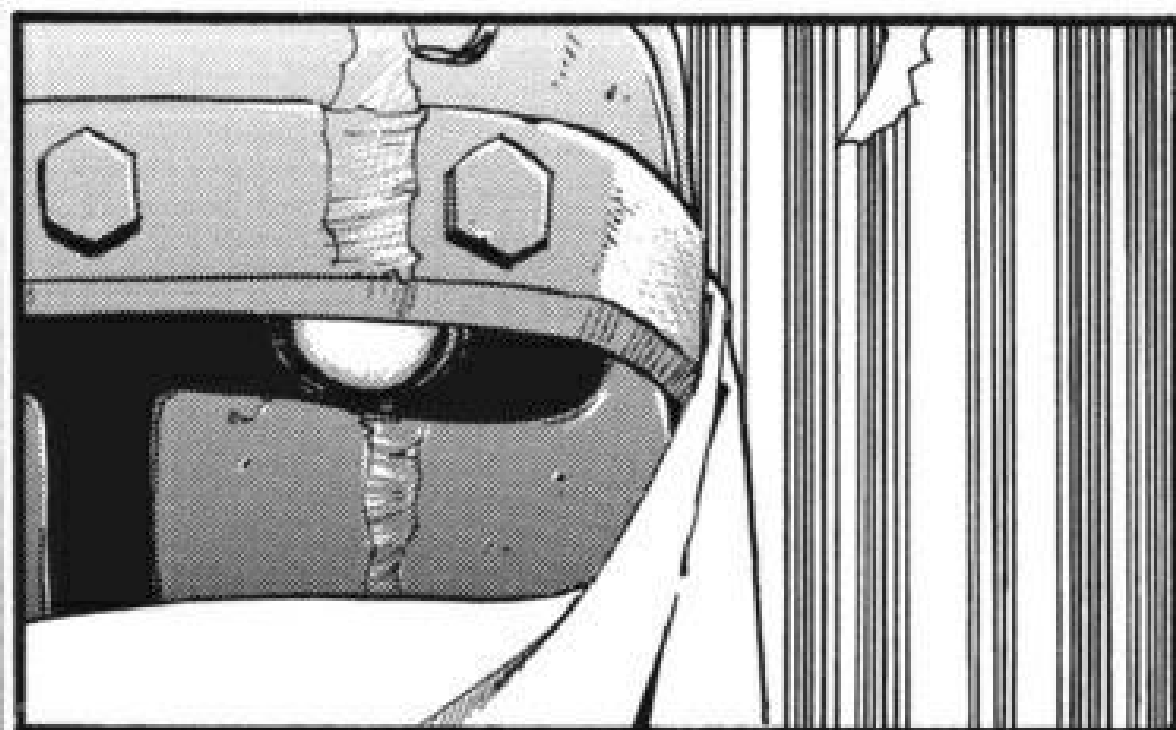
GRAHA HA HA

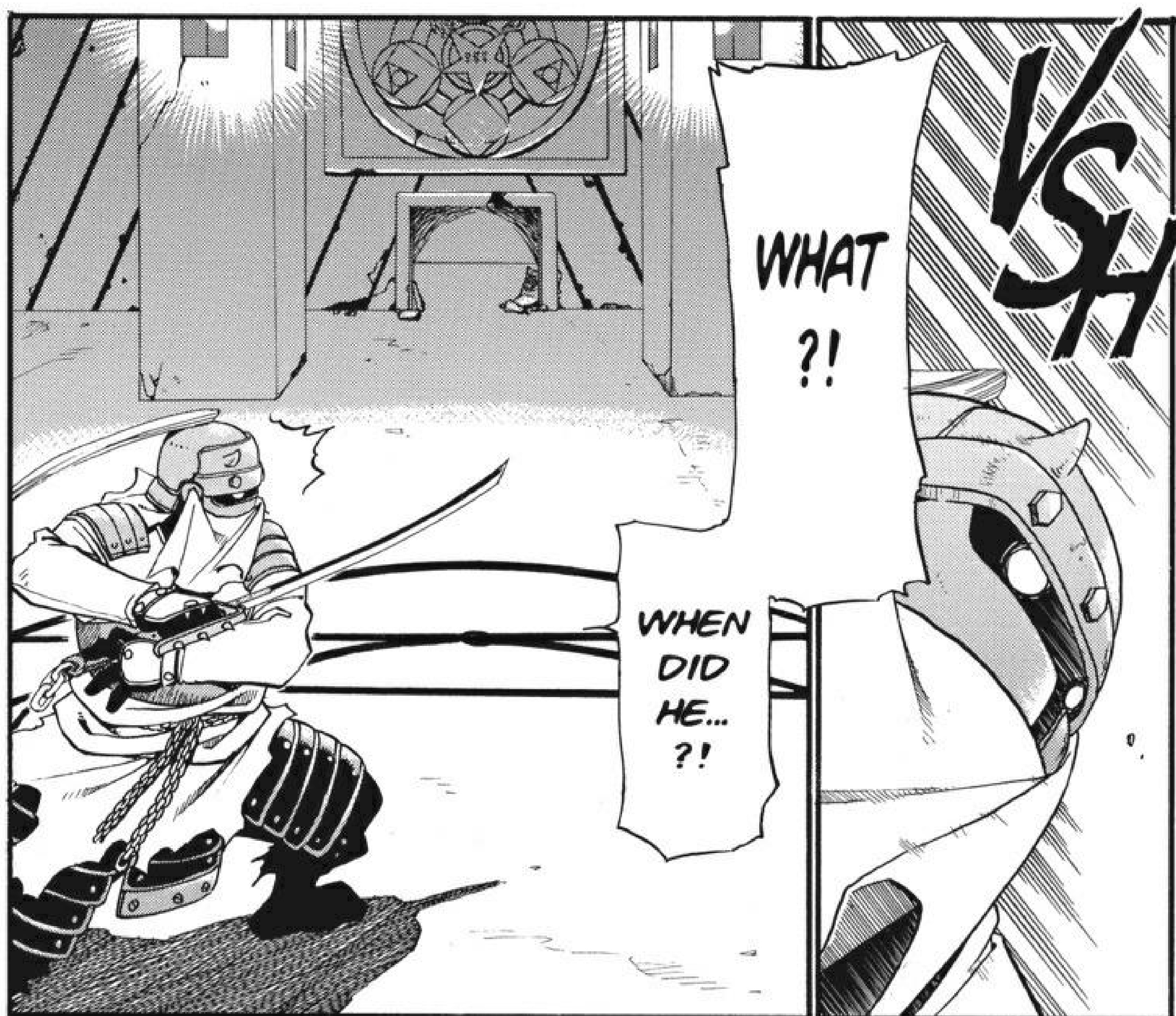
I KILL,
THEREFORE
I AM!!

THAT'S
ALL THE
PROOF
I NEED
TO KNOW
THAT I
EXIST!!

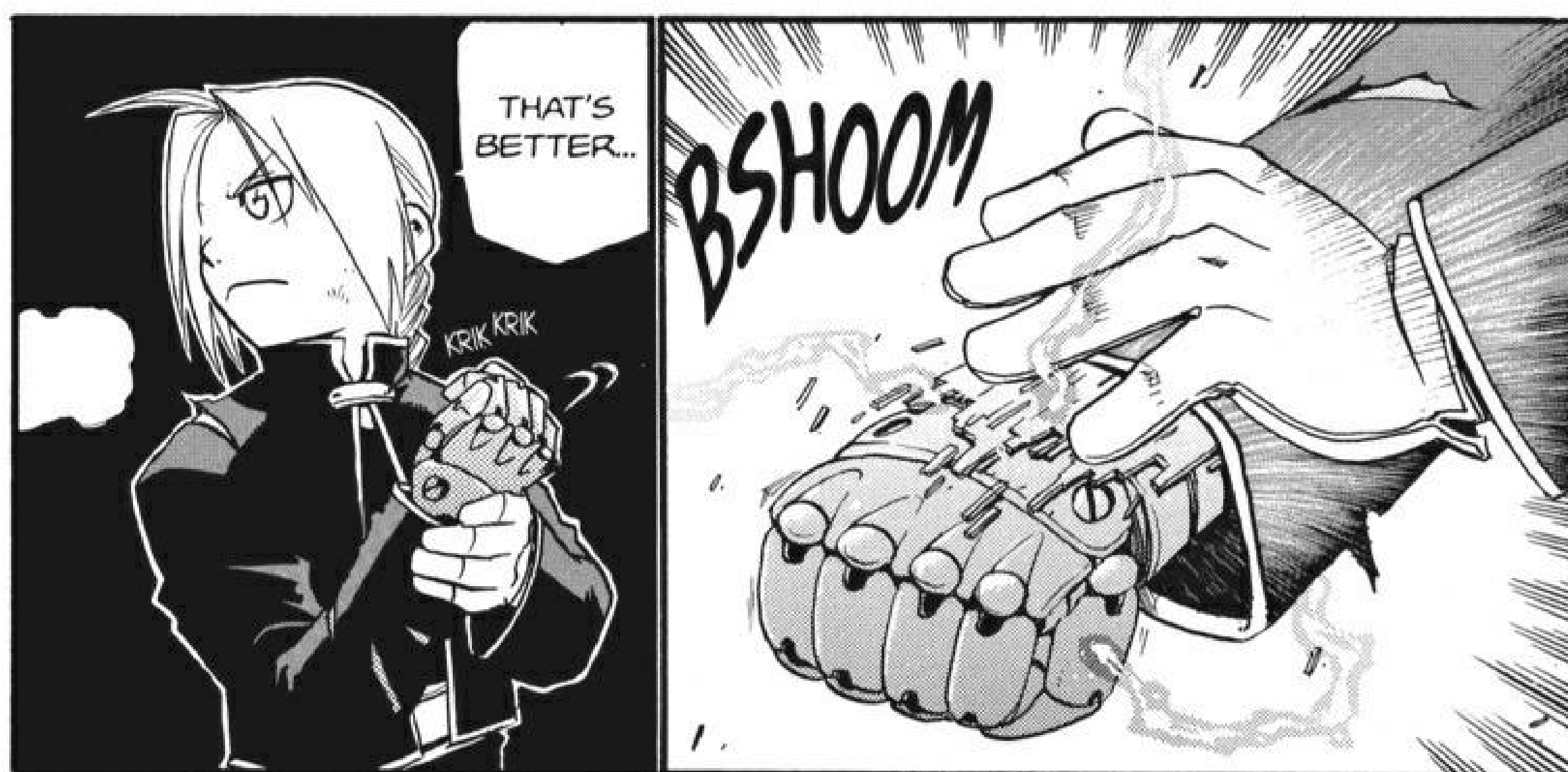
GRAHA HA HA



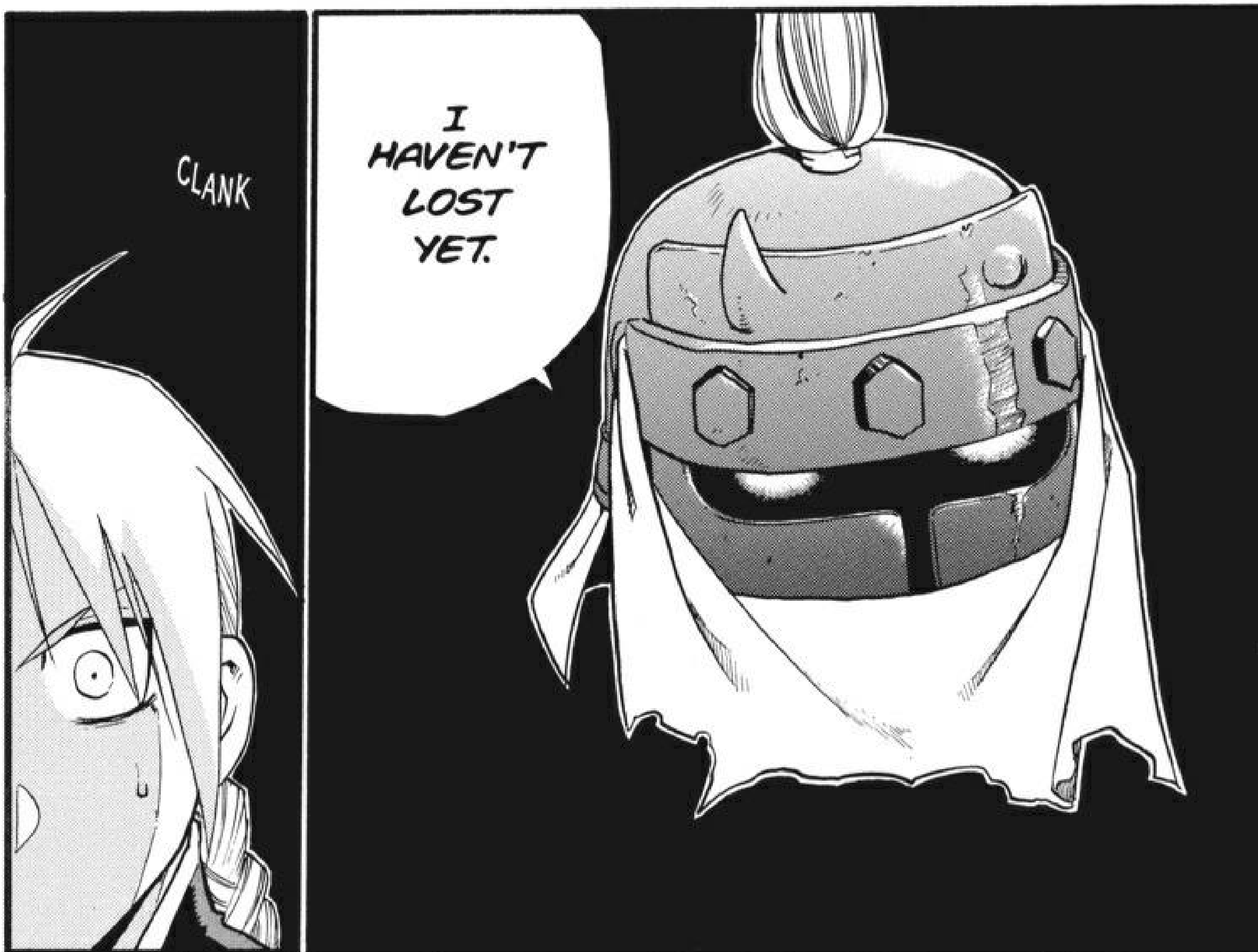
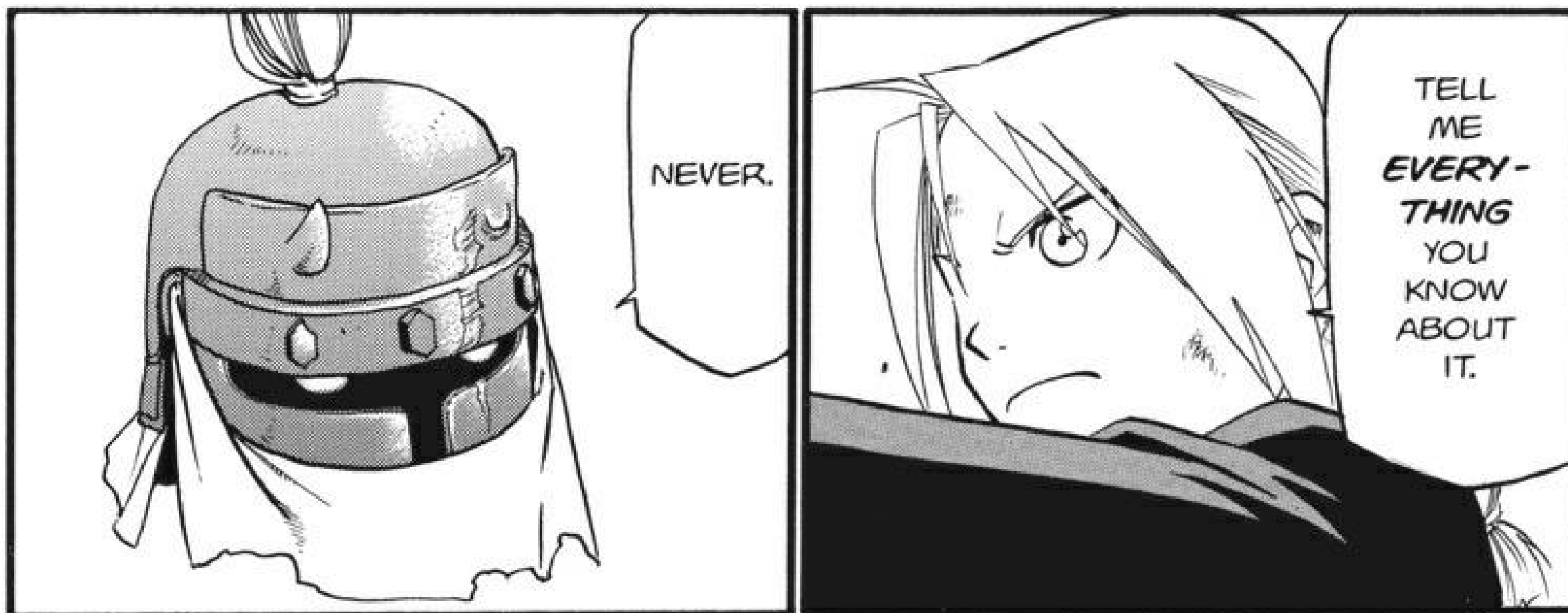


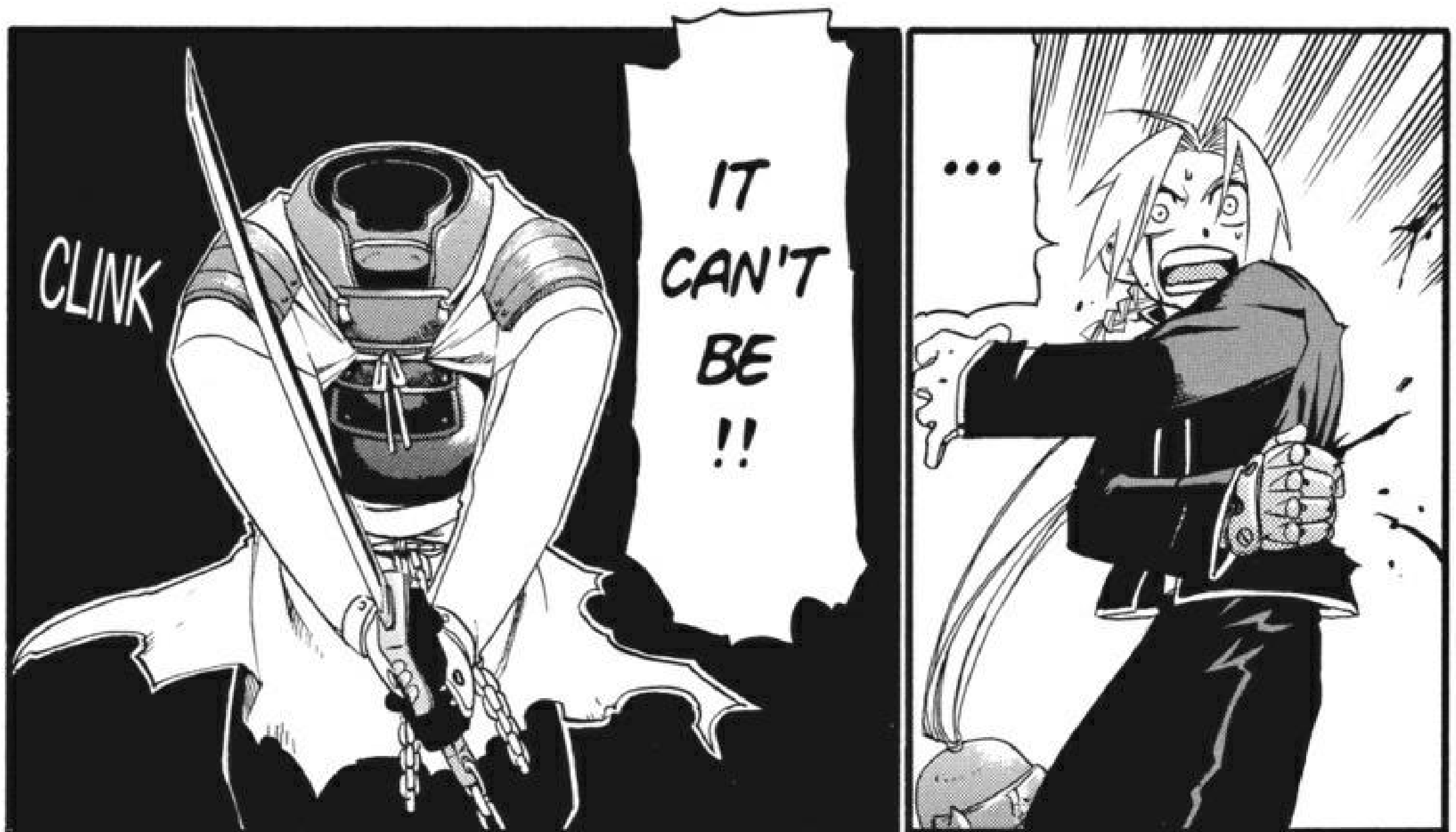
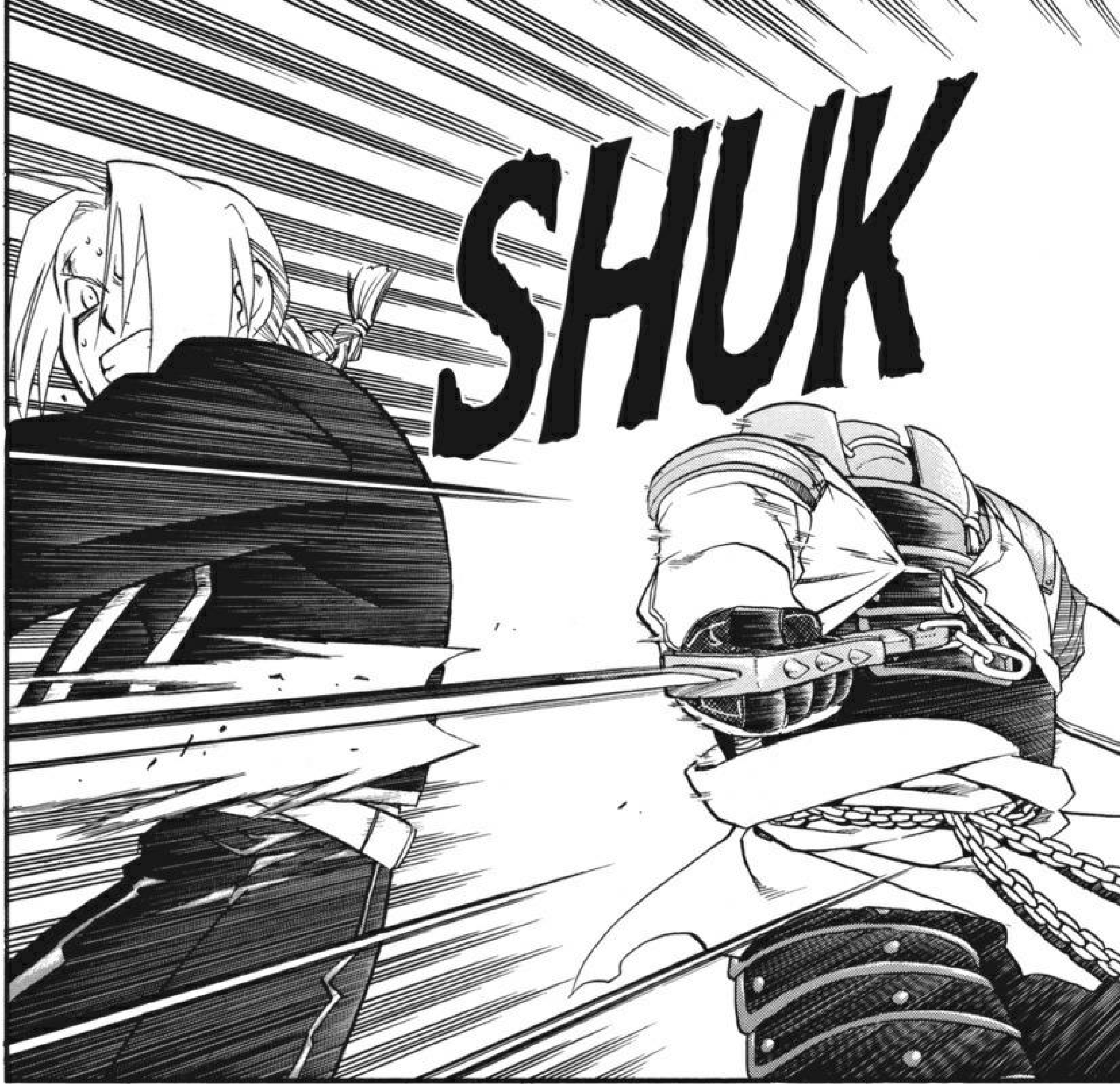














NO ONE
SAID THERE
COULD ONLY
BE **ONE** SOUL
FOR ONE
SUIT OF
ARMOR.



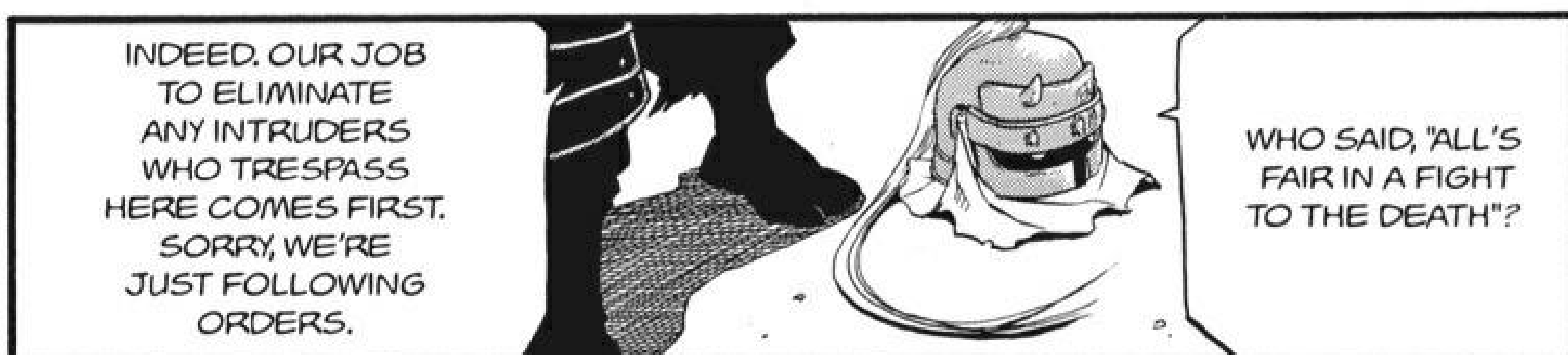
THE
HEAD
AND THE
BODY
ARE
**SEPAR-
ATE**
?

LOUSY
CHEAT...
!



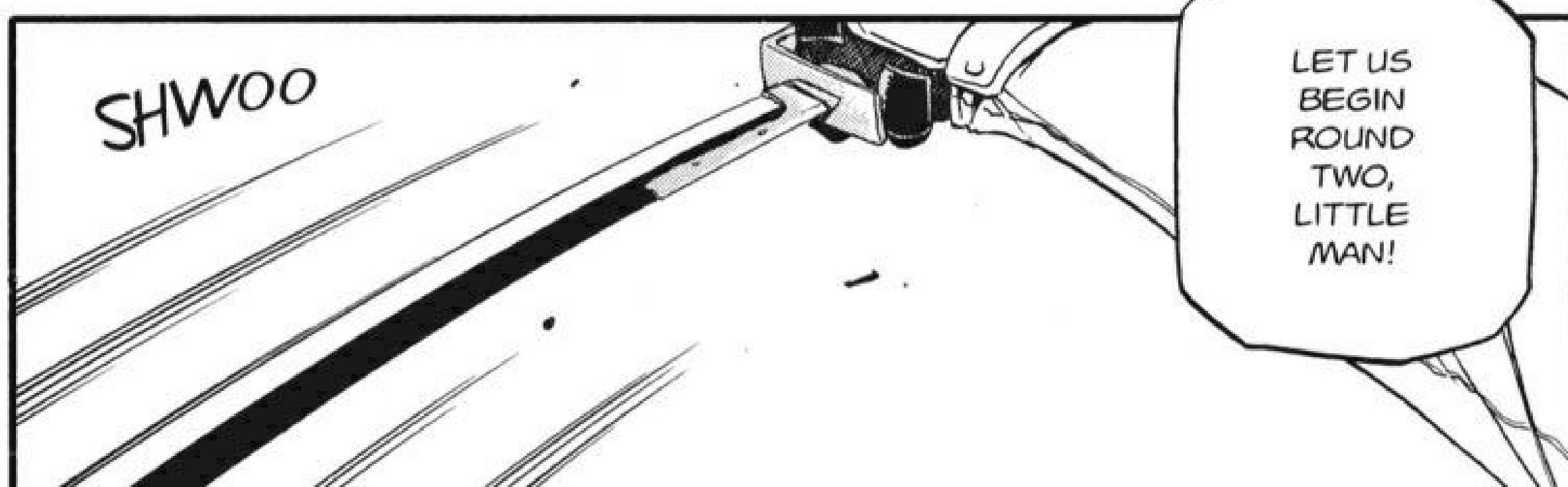
...THEY
FOUND
OUT THERE
WERE
TWO
KILLERS.
WE'RE
BROTHERS.

I FORGOT
TO
MENTION
THIS, BUT
WHEN THEY
CAUGHT
"SLICER"...



INDEED. OUR JOB
TO ELIMINATE
ANY INTRUDERS
WHO TRESPASS
HERE COMES FIRST.
SORRY, WE'RE
JUST FOLLOWING
ORDERS.

WHO SAID, "ALL'S
FAIR IN A FIGHT
TO THE DEATH"?

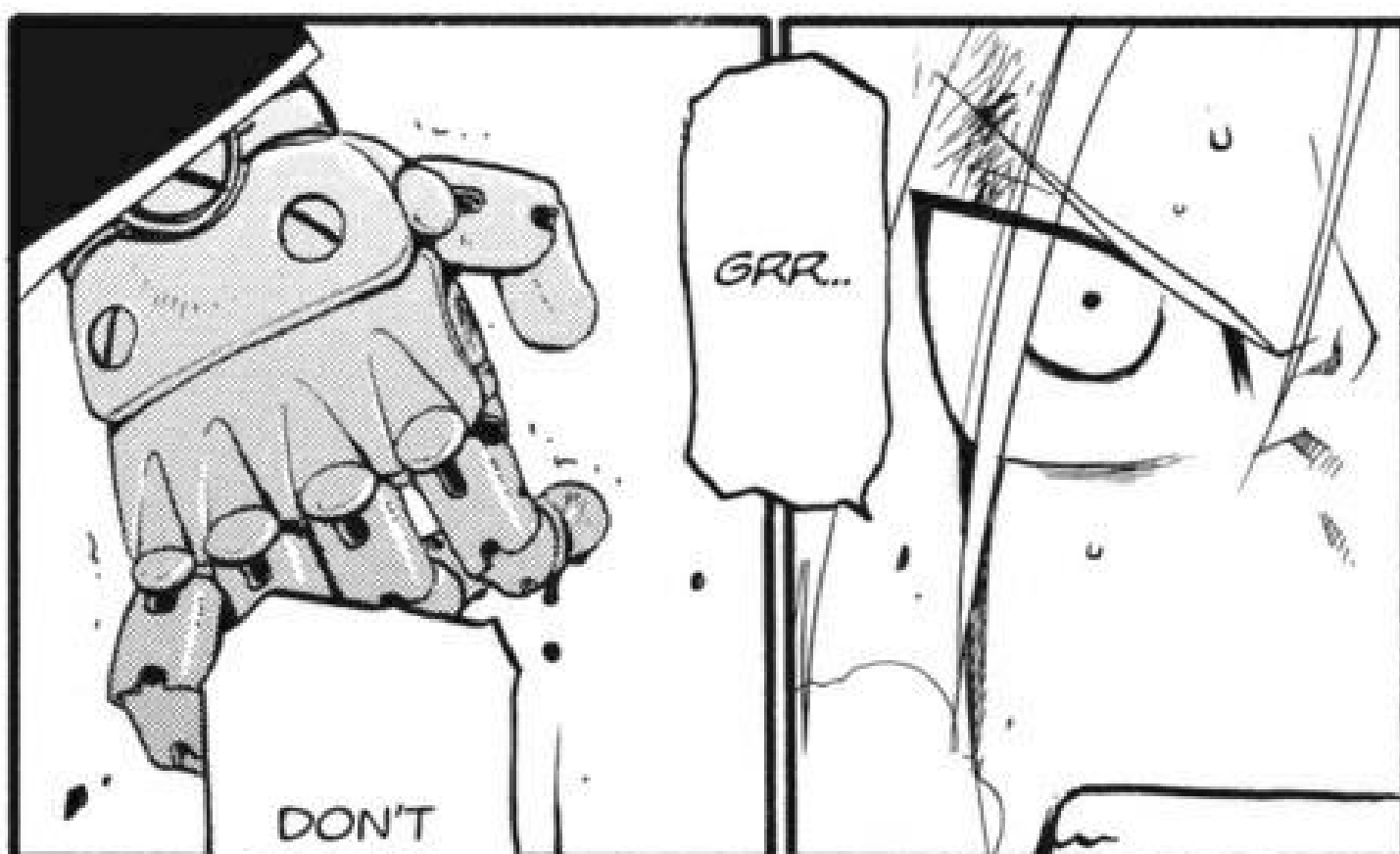


SHWOO

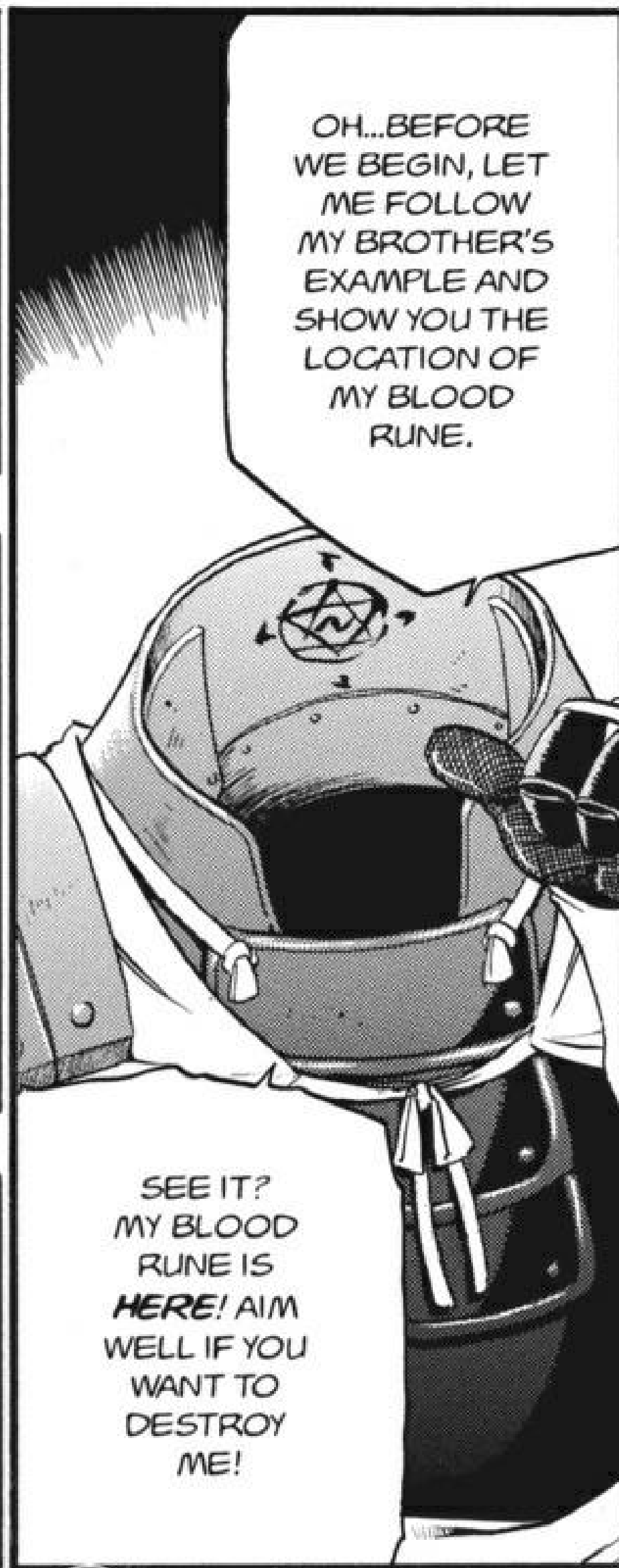
LET US
BEGIN
ROUND
TWO,
LITTLE
MAN!



BUT JUDGING
BY THOSE SHAKY
LEGS, I DON'T
THINK THAT'S
VERY LIKELY!
WA HA HA HA!!



DON'T
UNDER-
ESTI-
MATE...

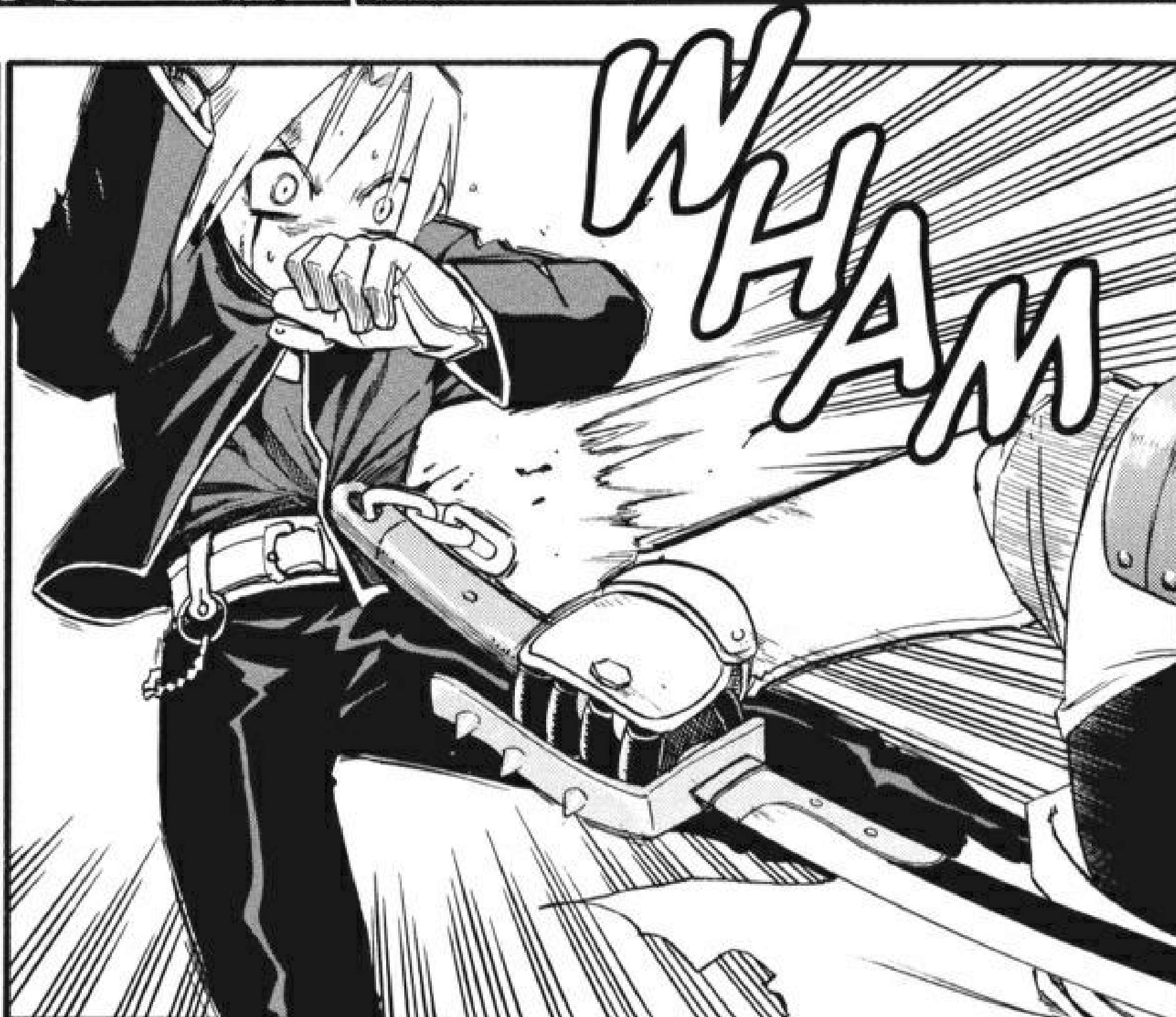
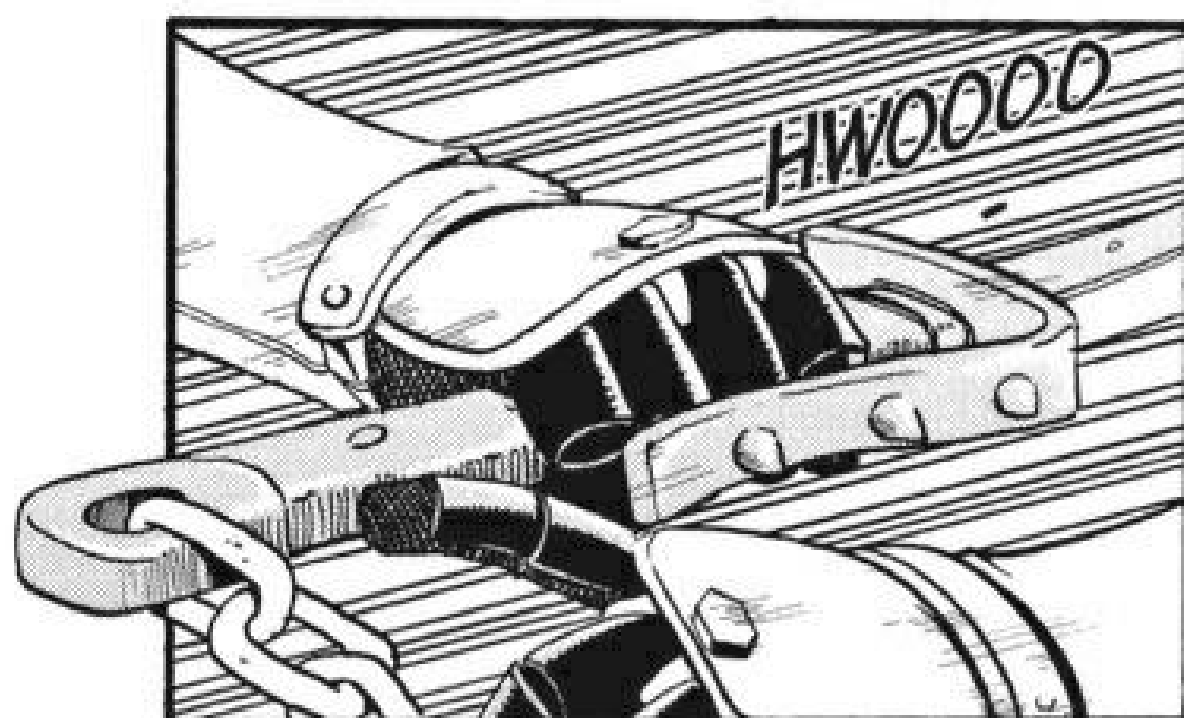
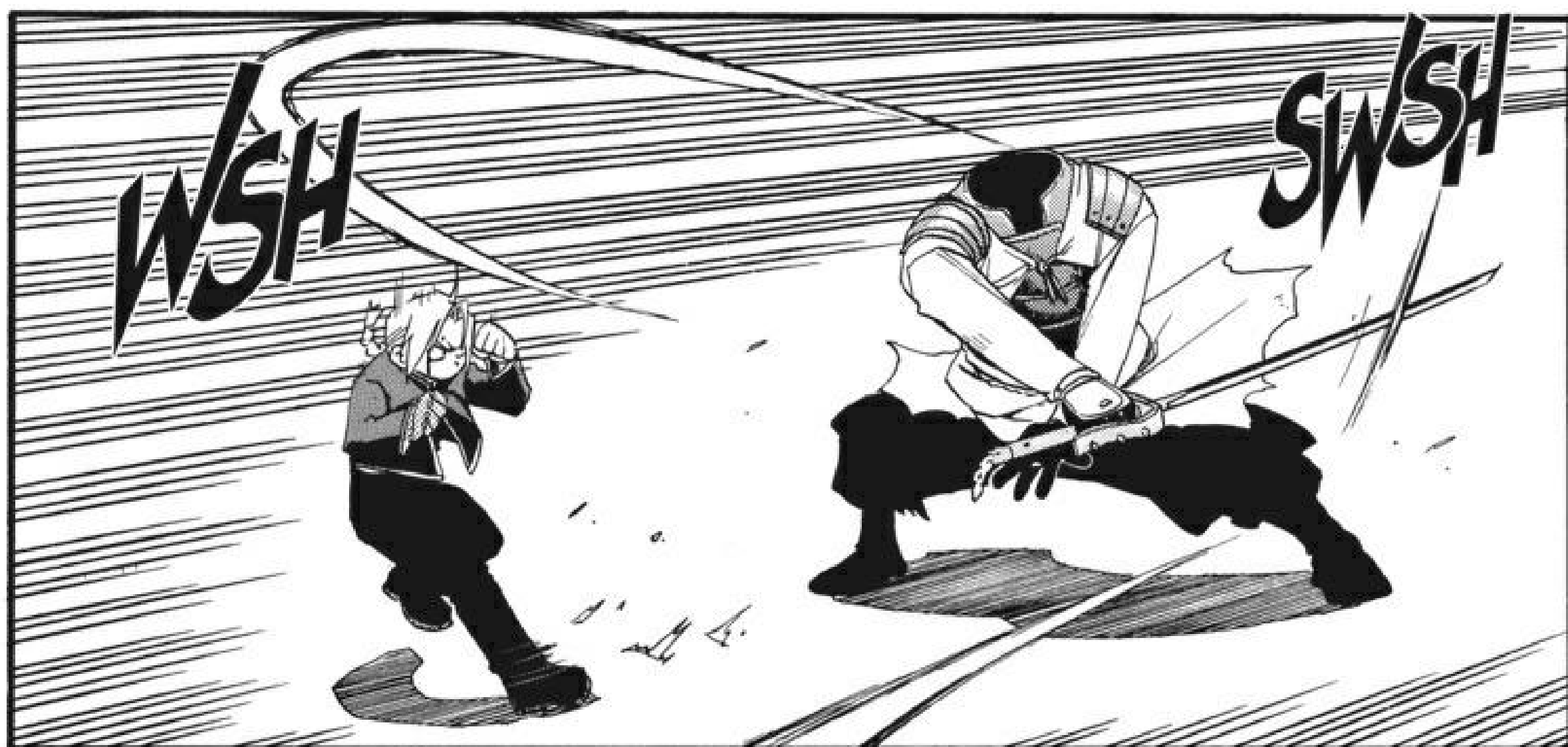


OH...BEFORE
WE BEGIN, LET
ME FOLLOW
MY BROTHER'S
EXAMPLE AND
SHOW YOU THE
LOCATION OF
MY BLOOD
RUNE.

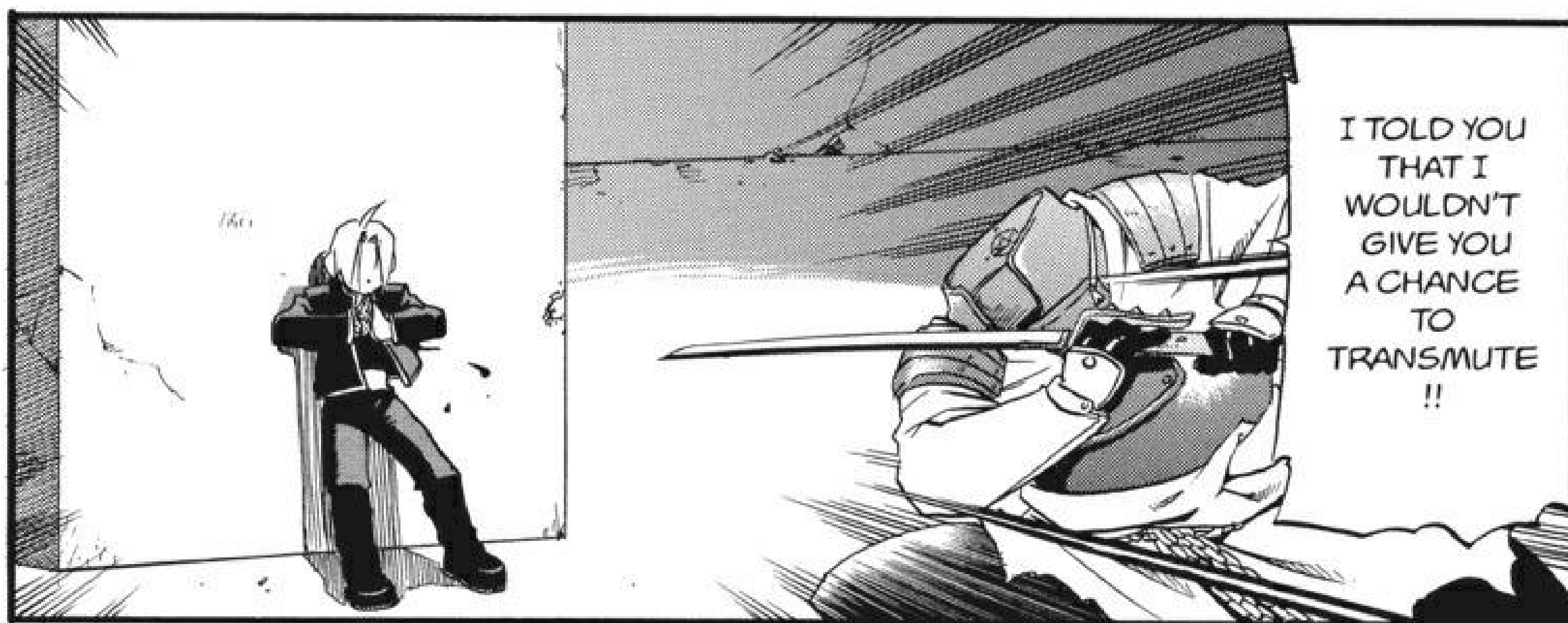
SEE IT?
MY BLOOD
RUNE IS
HERE! AIM
WELL IF YOU
WANT TO
DESTROY
ME!

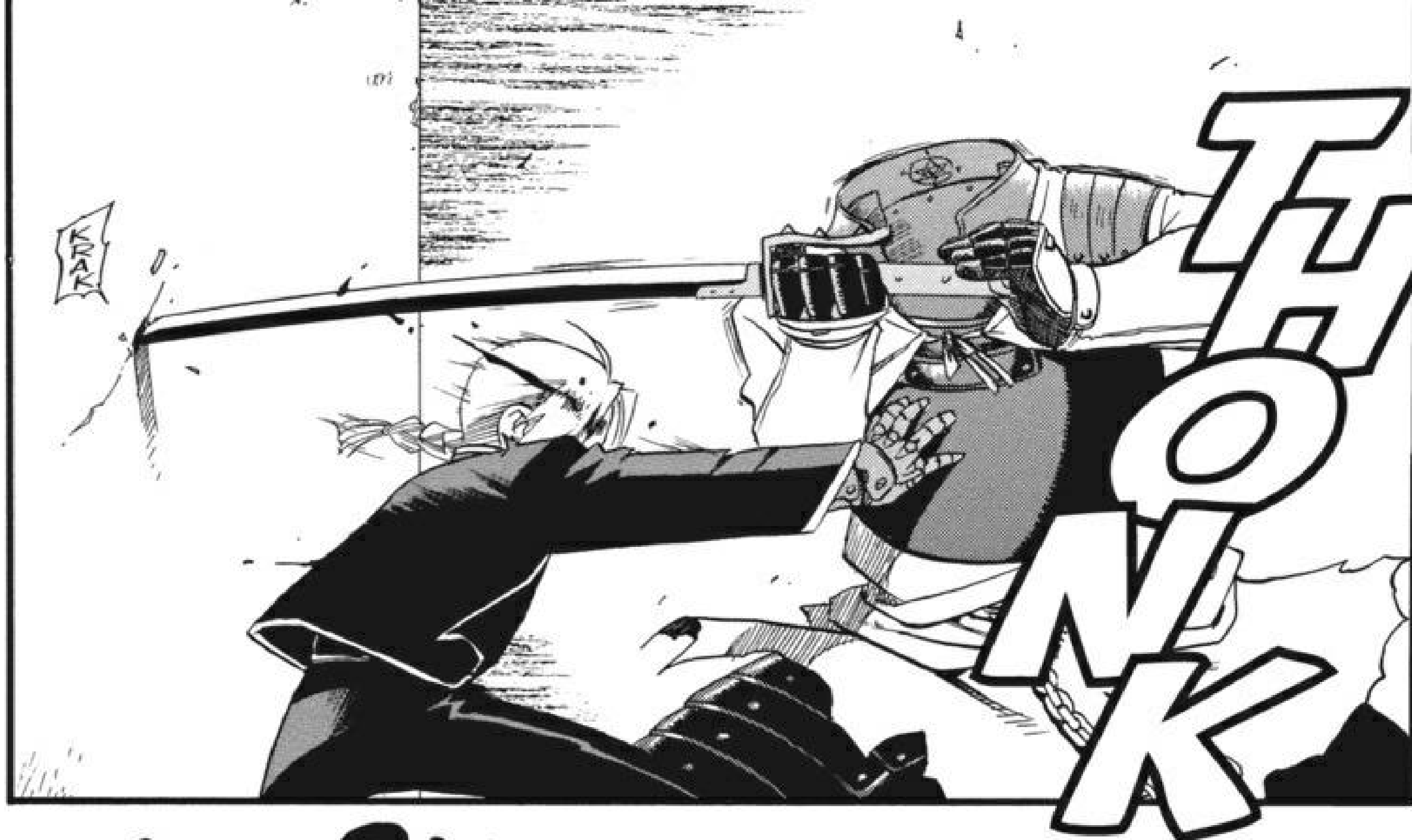


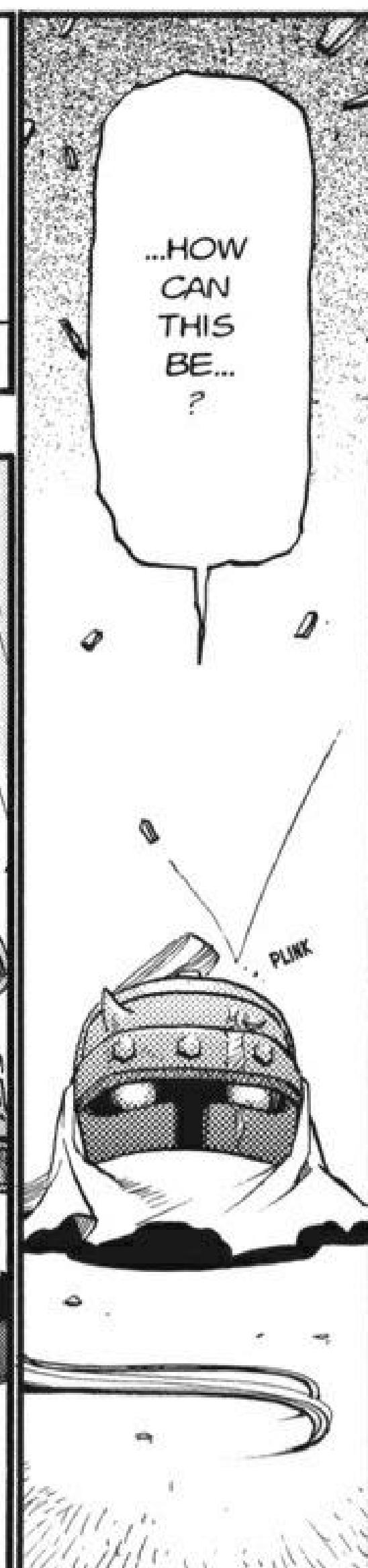
NOT THIS
TIME! I'M
NOT GIVING
YOU A
CHANCE
TO
TRANSMUTE
!!

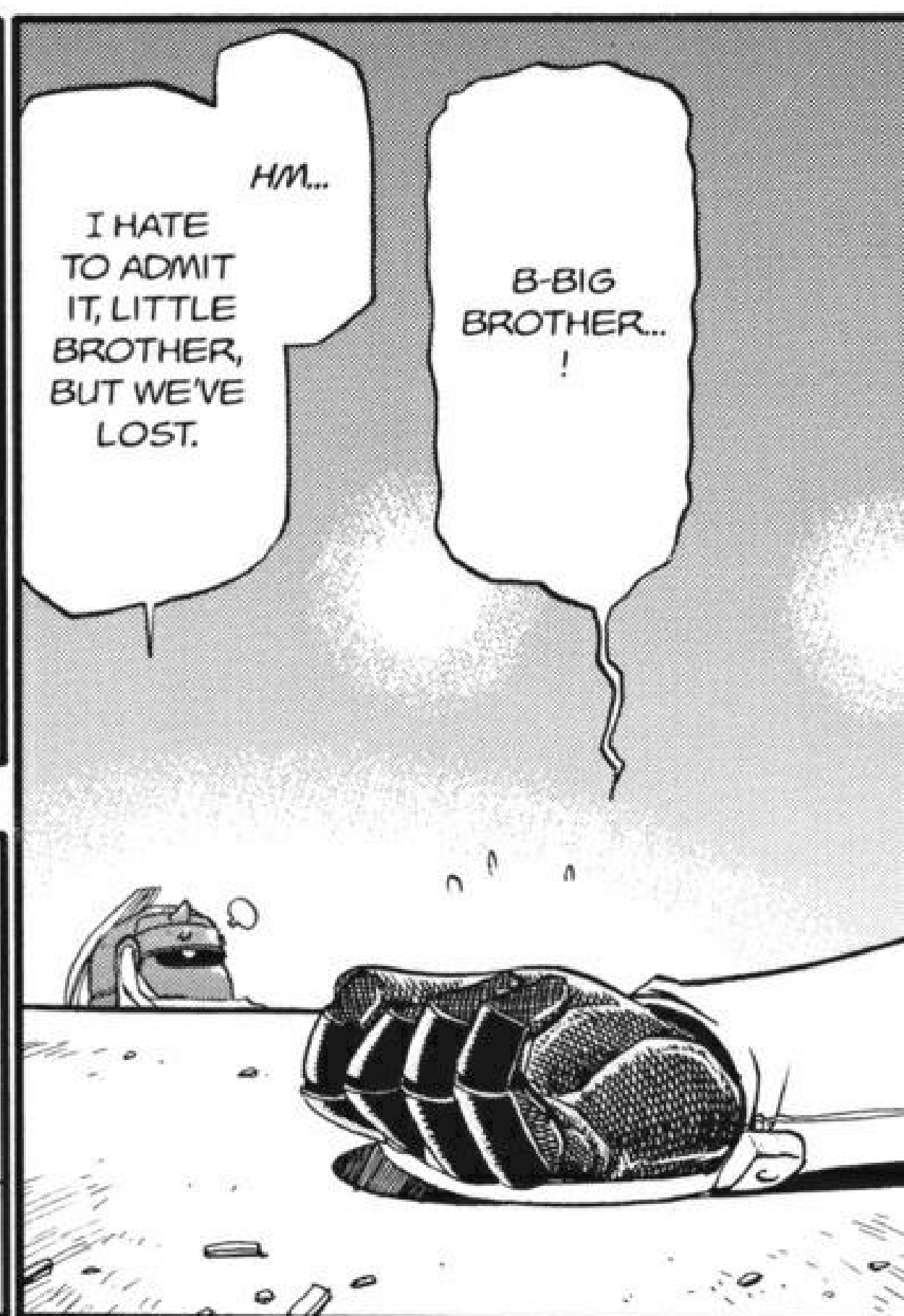
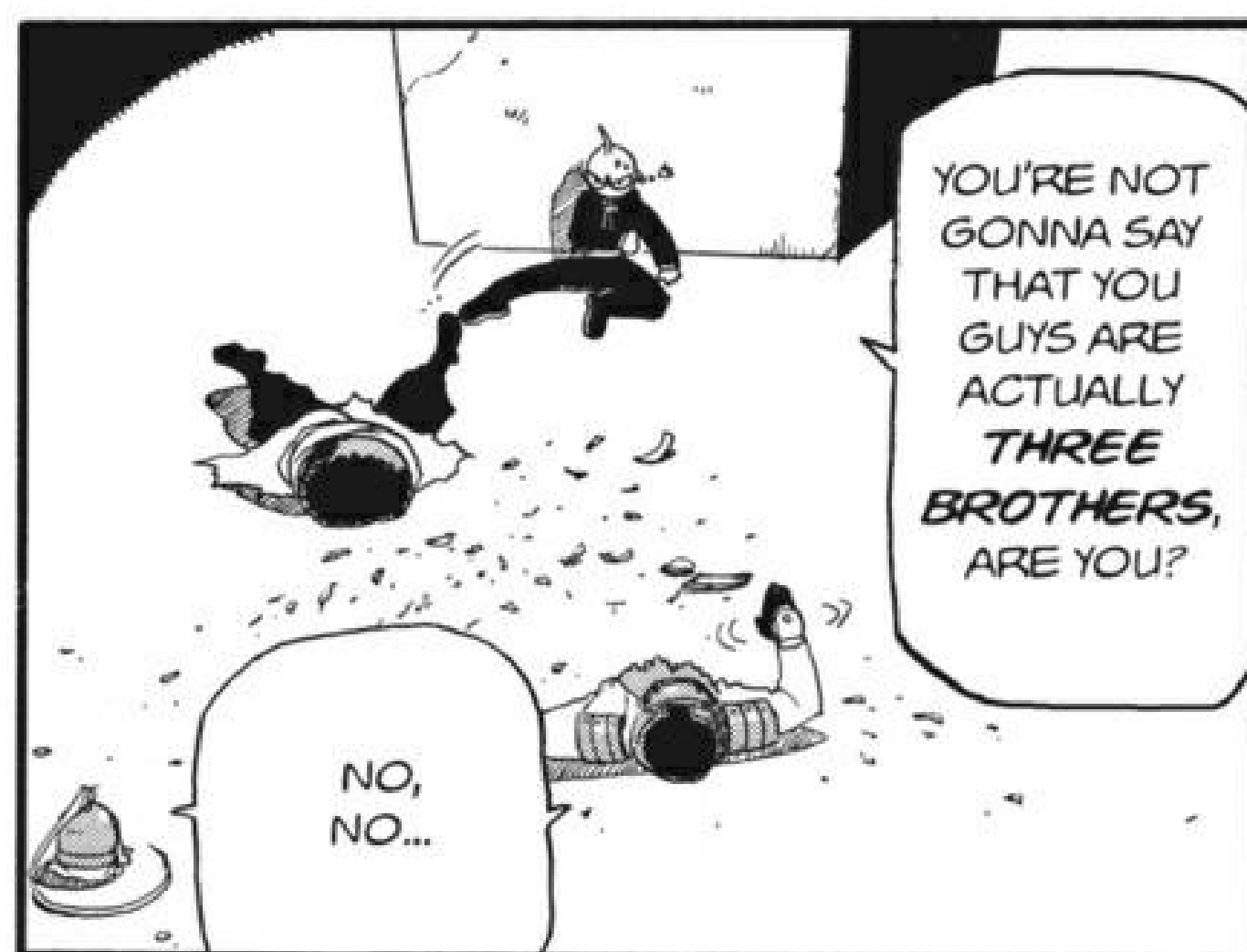
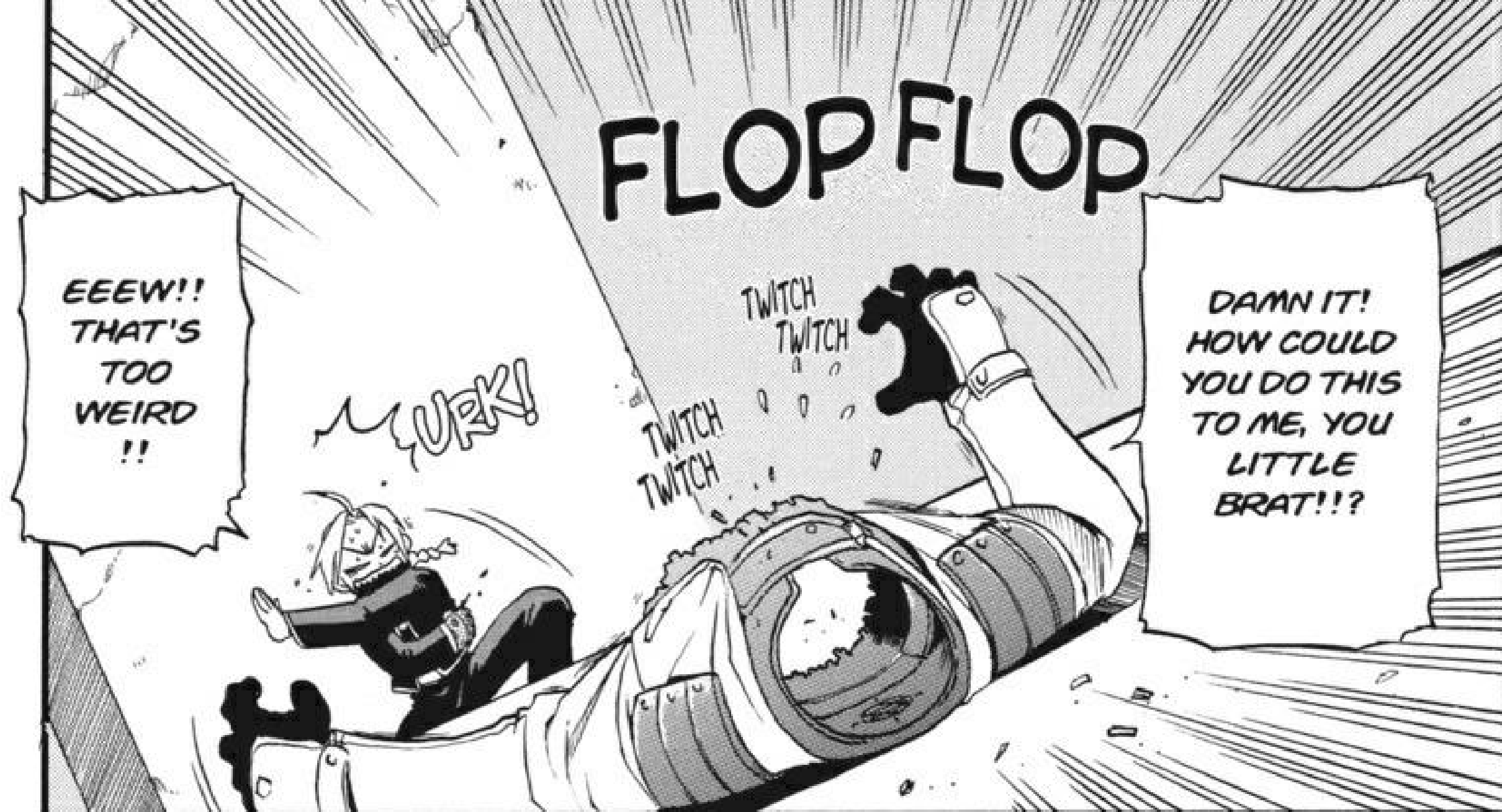


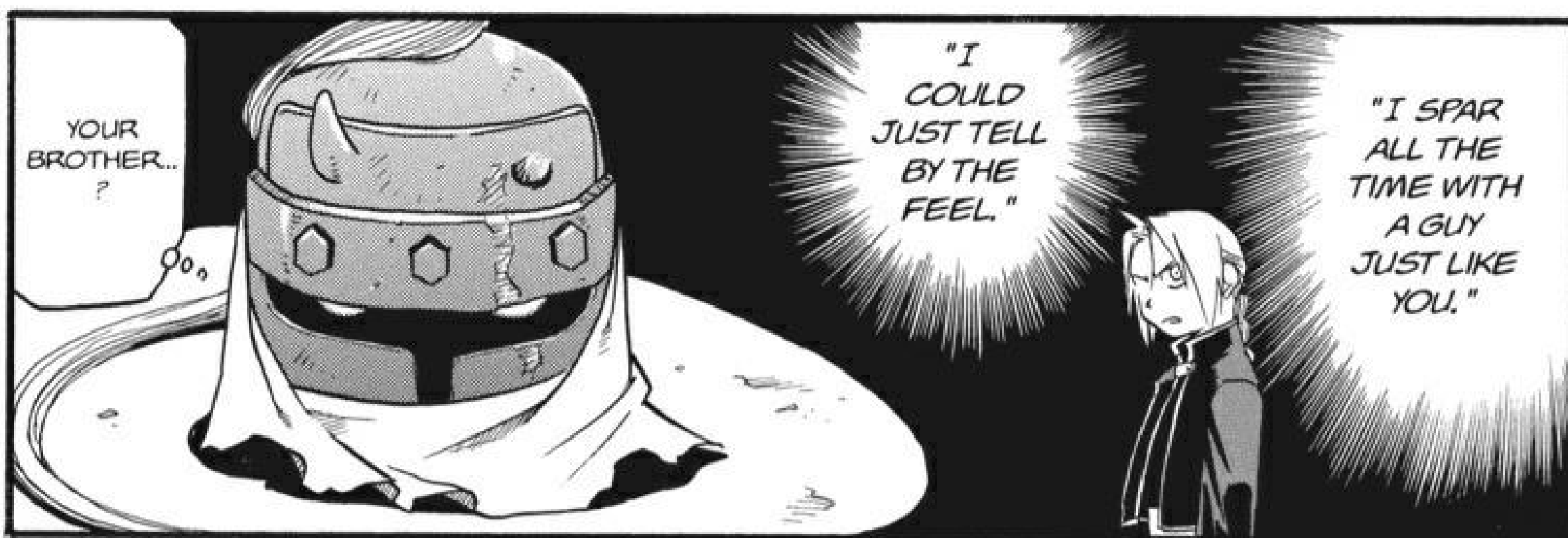
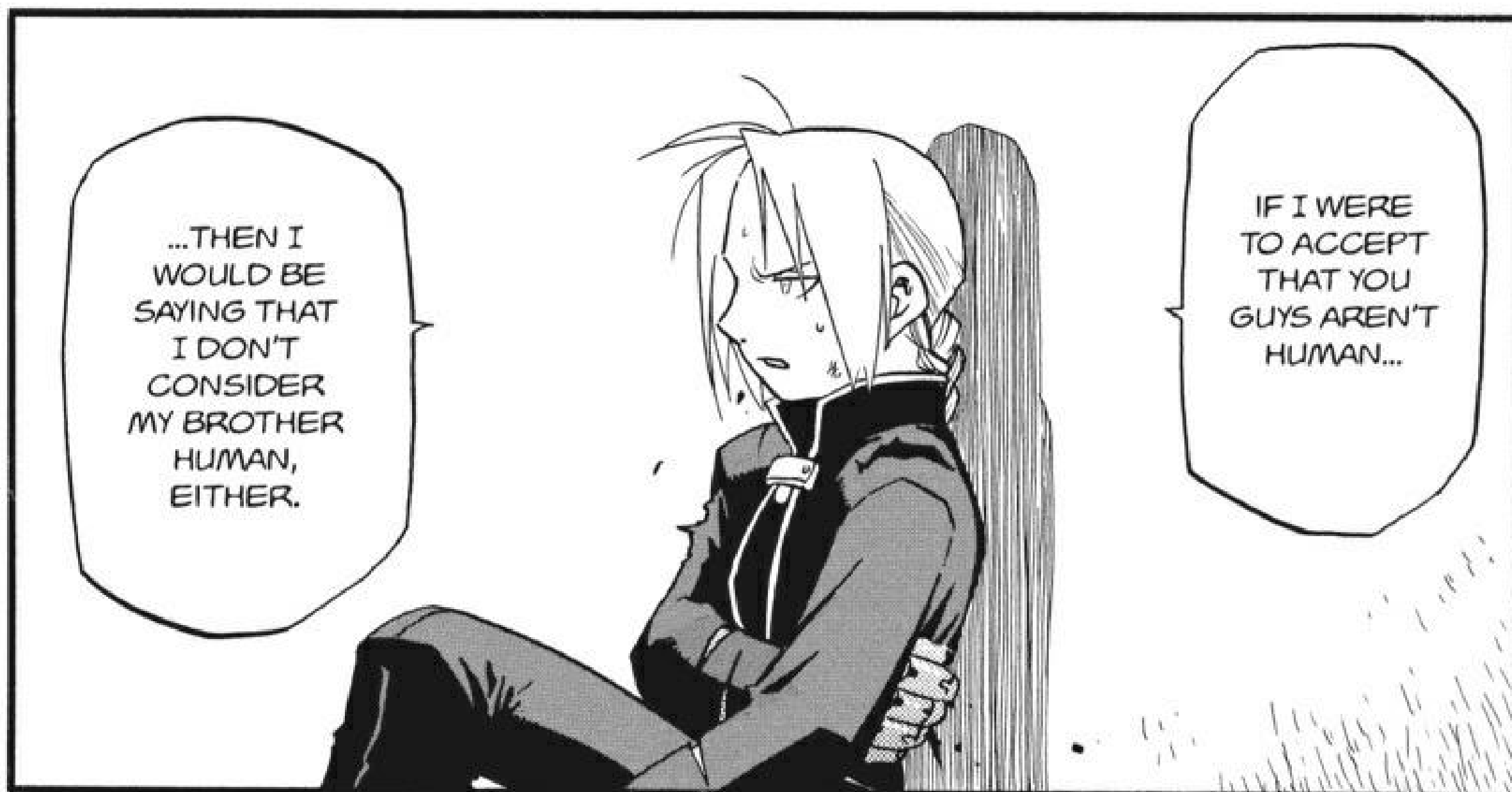


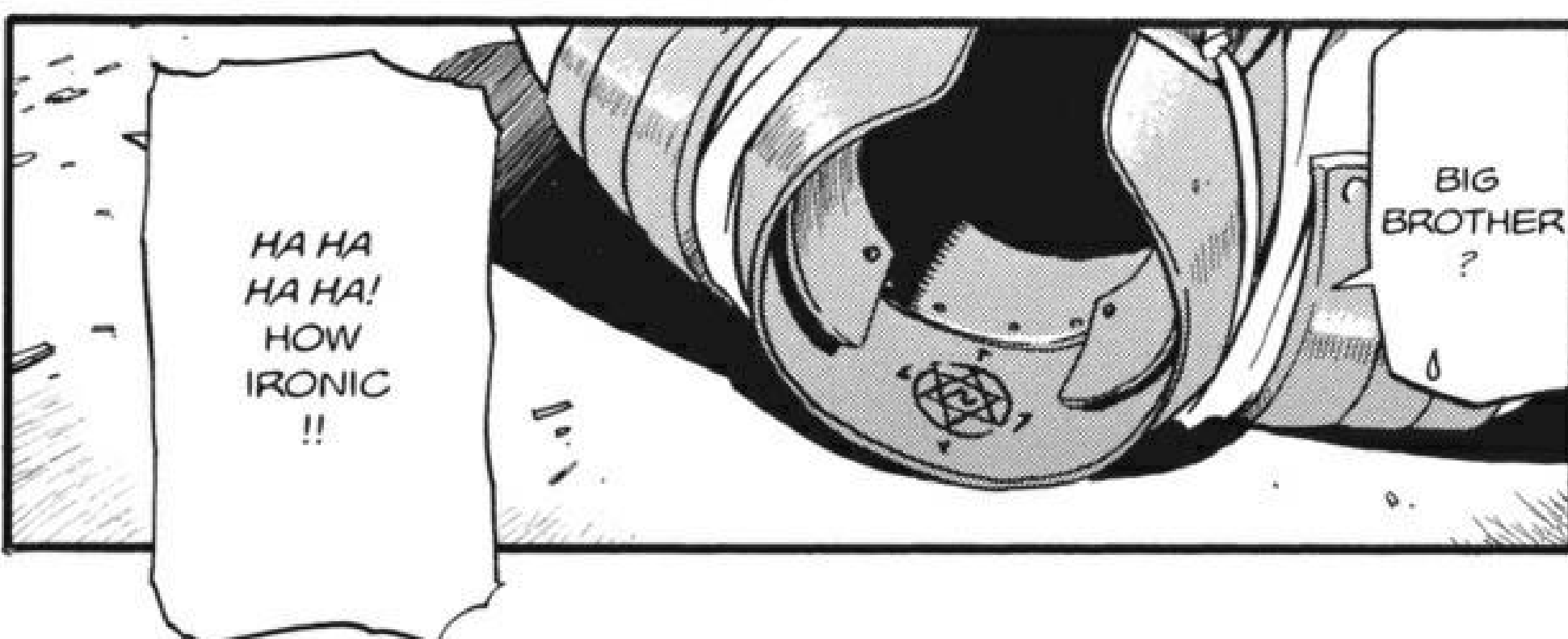
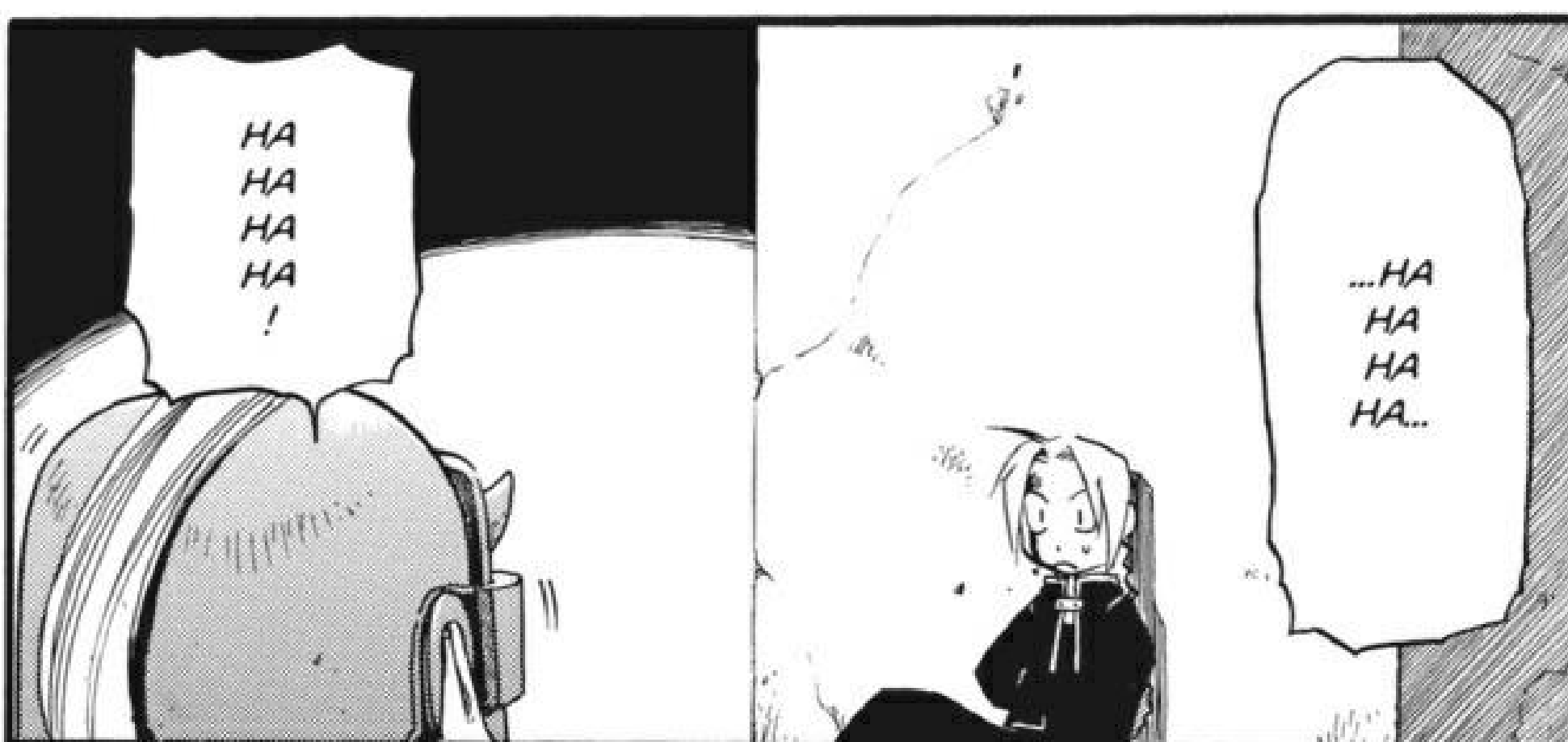
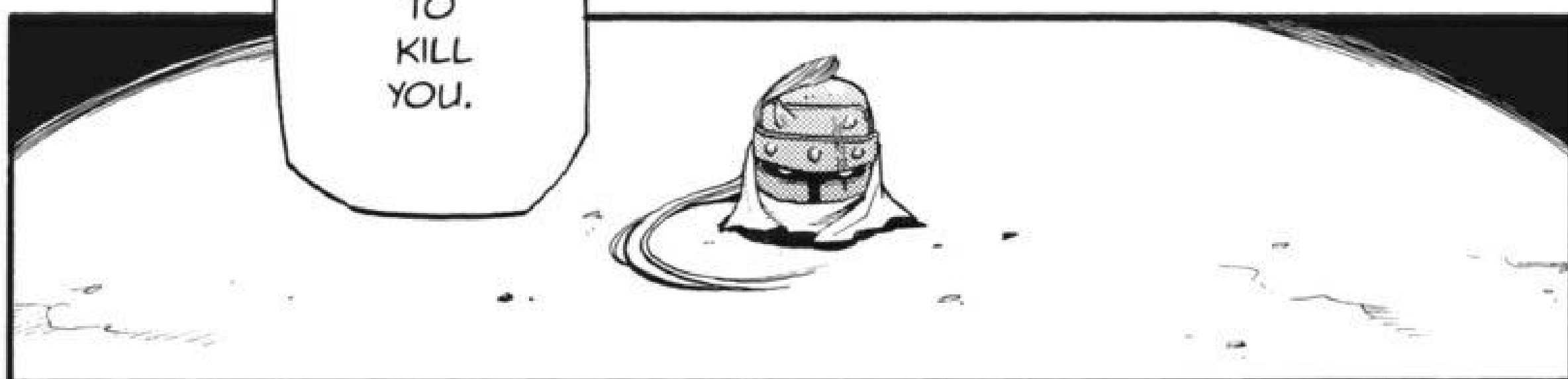


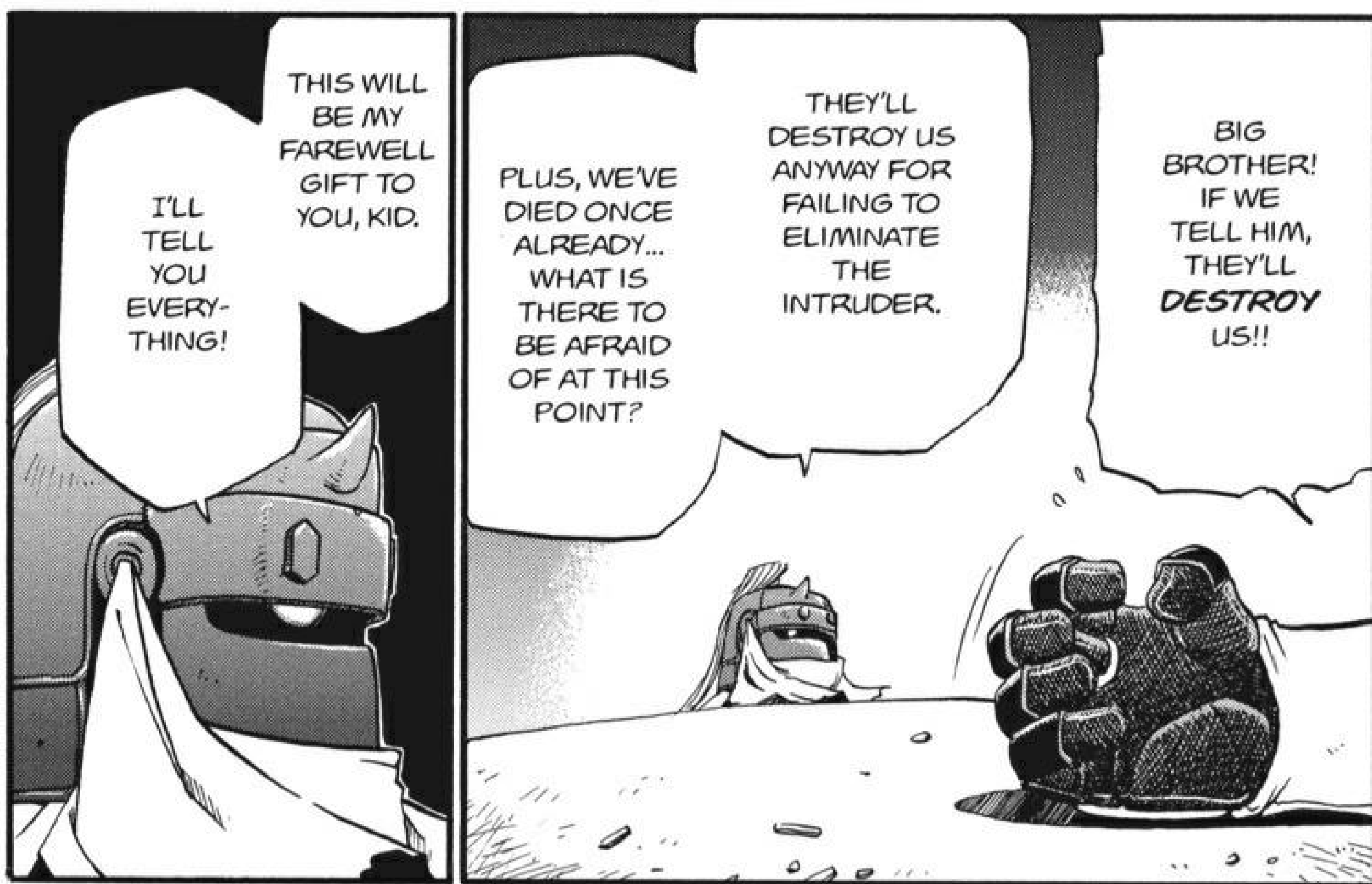


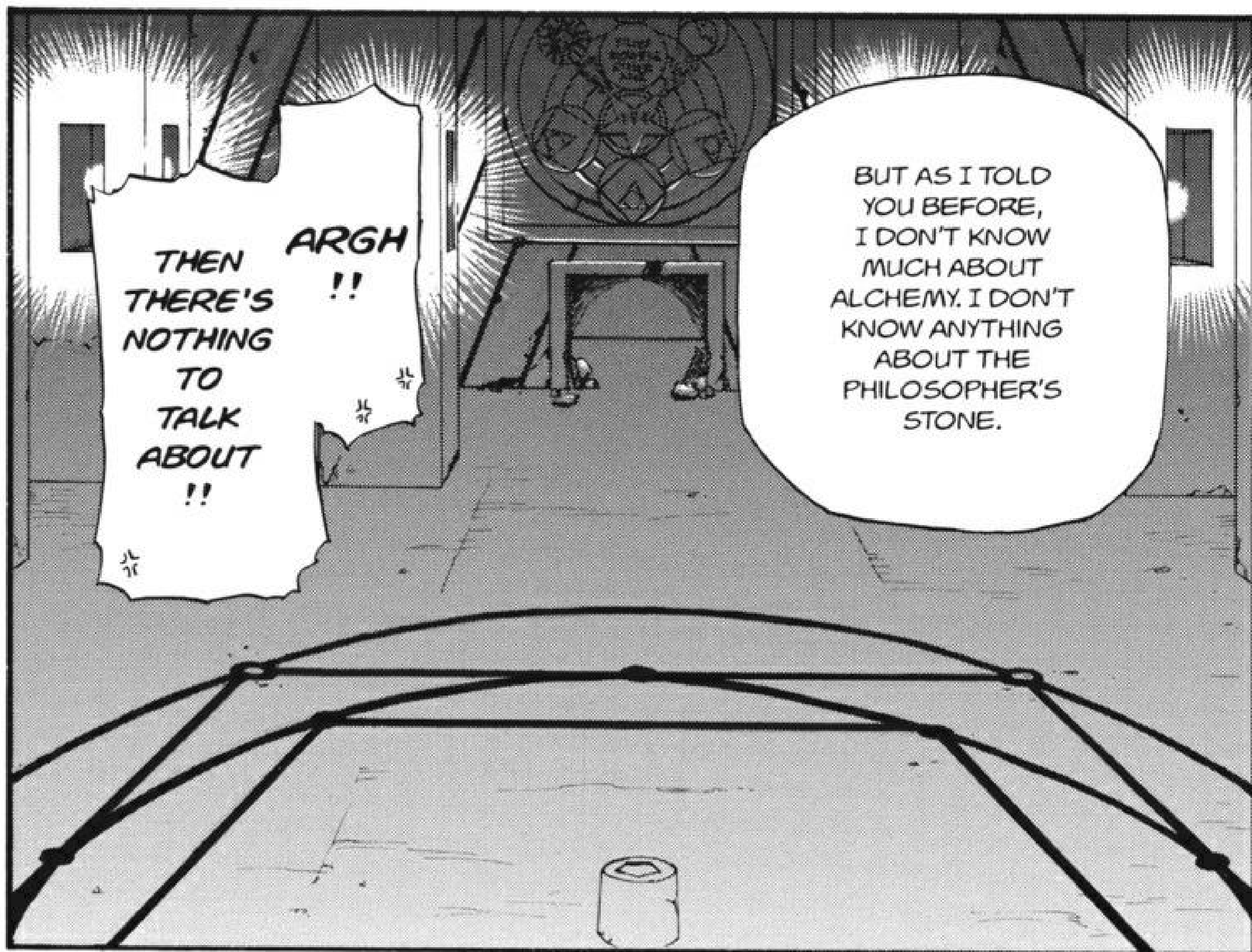












THEN
THERE'S
NOTHING
TO
TALK
ABOUT
!!

ARGH
!!

BUT AS I TOLD
YOU BEFORE,
I DON'T KNOW
MUCH ABOUT
ALCHEMY. I DON'T
KNOW ANYTHING
ABOUT THE
PHILOSOPHER'S
STONE.



THEY
ARE--



WHO
ARE
THEY
?!



I DON'T
KNOW ABOUT
THE *STONE*,
BUT I *DO*
KNOW ABOUT
THOSE WHO
MADE IT.

NAMELY,
THE ONES
WHO
ORDERED
US TO
GUARD
THIS
PLACE...

